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NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

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EGYPT

NEAR EAST

REPORT CRITICIZES AID AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

45040299a Beirut AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Jul 87 pp 70-73

[Article by Sa'id al-Shahhat: "The Egyptian Village is an Experimental Field for American Intelligence"]

[Text] American aid has penetrated to the nerve center of Egyptian village through two sectors, namely: agriculture and local industries.

In order to comprehend the importance of the agricultural operations sector with regard to international monopolies, we will cite an important paragraph from a report of the American President's Science Advisory Committee:

"All private companies, and in particular the agribusiness group of companies, including fertilizers, chemical products, seeds, irrigation equipment, and food industries, have expressed their readiness to work to combat hunger, and the American government must offer them every assistance so that they may work in cooperation with the private sector in the underdeveloped state. In addition to loans, guarantees, and investment aid, it must take more decisive measures in this respect."

The American Aid Agency

This paragraph makes it clear to us that agriculture, as an important sector in the Third World, has been targeted by international monopolies, especially the American ones. In order to penetrate this sector, it was necessary to liquidate the existing structures and cultivate new ones that conformed to this strategy. The Americans entered the field of Egyptian agriculture through the 'American Aid Agency' [Agency for International Development], and this took the form of several projects that began 7 years ago. These projects were the grain project, the rice project, the California project, and the small farmer's project. \$47 million were spent on the grain project,

and \$27 million on the rice project (in addition to what Egypt spent in Egyptian pounds), and more than half of these amounts went for salaries to the American advisors. The salary of a single advisor is as much as \$12,000 a month if his salary in America had been only \$3,000; and it is as much as \$30,000 a month if his salary in America had been \$12,000.

Dr Mustafa al-Jubayli, former minister of agriculture, explains this, saying: "American aid spends money on employees' salaries, never-ending visits to America, and installations, but they have not had any effect on increasing yields."

"While the American aid budget extended into the millions without achieving any of the desired results, the Science Research Academy, for example, launched a domestic campaign to develop the cultivation of rice, wheat, and corn with a budget that did not exceed 150,000 pounds a year. The outcome was the planting of 100,000 feddans of Filipino rice, resulting in a yield increase of 130,000 tons last year."

Testimony from Within

Dr al-Jubayli continued with his recollections of the aid and how it was spent, saying: "Mahmud Da'ud, former minister of agriculture, asked me to oversee the aid earmarked for rice, and I actually attended one meeting. I found that \$8 million in the budget was for salaries, while the total aid for rice was \$16 million, so I excused myself." He added: "There is another project, with a budget of \$130 million over the next 5 years, to be financed by American aid to increase agricultural production. I fear that they will spend this budget and leave Egypt poorer than when they began their projects, because they do not have our interests at heart and they are not interested in achieving food security for Egypt, because on the day that this is achieved, Egypt will be free of their power."

When asked about the increase that the aid had brought about in the three principal grain crops, wheat, corn, and rice, he replied: "No increase worth mentioning has come of it, no increase worth mentioning has come of it!" As for cotton and citrus, he stated that the Americans refused to carry out any research worth mentioning in this area to prevent any discussion with them.

He concluded by saying: "The real danger of this aid is that it will cause much indifference and widespread corruption among Egyptian scientists. This is perhaps its real significance. In addition, it should be noted that experience with American aid has been negative, and that foreign aid in general is given to the extent that the foreign party benefits."

The Local Industries Sector

As for the local industries sector, the American government has discovered the significance of this sector in terms of its great importance as the principal sector for building and developing the villages. Because of this, American aid has been able to penetrate deeply into this sector through the Organization for the Building and Development of the Egyptian Village. The establishment of this organization goes back to July 1973, and its general budget from the government was 2 million pounds annually. This figure is low, in view of the size of the projects that the organization took upon itself to carry out. From the time it was established up to 1985-86, investments from the state's general budget were about 33 million pounds.

Because of this tightness in the organization's general budget, a search was made for sources of income, and our American friend was the result of that search. The American government, represented by the Agency for International Development, and the Egyptian government, represented by the Organization for the Building and Development of the Egyptian Village, signed two agreements with aid credits of \$300 million. The crowning slogan was: "American participation in propelling the economic and social development plan in the Egyptian village."

Conditions in General

If this was the general aim, there is a series of specific goals in the first agreement, which was signed in 1979 for \$75 million in aid. The goals are:

--To support the policy of decentralization followed by the Egyptian government with respect to local government.

--To improve the ability of workers in the local village units and the Organization for the Building and Development of the Egyptian Village to plan, administer, finance, and implement basic service projects selected with the knowledge of the local industries, such as drinking water, roads, reservoirs, and sewers.

As for the second agreement in 1980, its aim was for the Organization for the Building and Development of the Egyptian Village, along with the American Agency for International Development (AID), to provide important services to American intelligence. This was done by giving a grant totalling \$225 million, including \$16 million for technical assistance, training, and joint research into what afflicts the Egyptian village--and of course this would be done with the knowledge of AID. In addition, \$219 million was earmarked for projects to be dispatched with the knowledge of the Organization for the Building and Development of the Egyptian Village. AID put the following conditions on these projects:

--To provide it with reports on the implementation of the projects every 3 months.

--The right of the agency to visit the projects and see them as they are.

--To perform studies to evaluate the projects and to see whether they have met their goals or not.

As for the third [as published] condition, the most serious of them all, it is:

--To appoint the American company Chemotex as the consultative company to the Organization for the Building and Development of the Egyptian Village in the area of technical assistance (planning, follow-up, financial aspects, and data).

Data...

The word "data" was included in the consultative duties of the company because of what was said in the agreement about the need to establish a program to "collect data," starting at the level of local village units and the governorates, and linked to the central level at the organization's data center, which is managed by the Americans.

The data includes:

--A precise enumeration of all the problems of local society.

--The social and class make-up of the population of the villages, centers, and governorates.

--Stress points in these regions.

This is what the second agreement stipulated. When we learn that AID is one of the forms taken on by American intelligence, we realize just how valuable this data is, and just how open everything in Egypt has become to America, and that the Egyptian village, which represents two thirds of the population, has become, with its agricultural and local components, an experimental field for America.

12547/12223

AL-WAFD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DISCUSSES NEWSPAPER'S ROLE

45040299b London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Aug 87 pp 50-51

[Article: "We Do Not Attack Anyone Without Documentation."]

[Text] AL-WAFD newspaper is one of the most troublesome publications in the Arab world. It has been a weekly headache in Egypt's political life throughout the past 5 years, and when party leaders decided to turn it into a daily paper, the headache became a daily one, difficult to treat with sedatives and tranquilizers.

AL-WAFD had opened fire on everyone, and has not left anyone unscathed, whether in the government, the opposition, or neutral. It has even criticized and made accusations against the party in whose name it speaks.

The publication of AL-WAFD newspaper confirms an enduring fact and the democracy of President Husni Mubarak's government, which has demonstrated its acceptance of severe criticism, and even of subjects that are intended to harm the government itself.

This newspaper has fought many battles, which reached a climax in the Egyptian court which heard cases of insult, slander, bribery, and accusations of theft.

The latest and indeed the most important was the al-'Asfurah case, in which the tribunal acquitted Sa'id 'Abd-al-Khaliq, head of the newspaper's news division, of the accusation that he had taken a bribe from the Arab businessman 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Baydani.

AL-WAFD newspaper depends on provocative investigative reports, which draw the largest number of people. It also depends on short news items which deal with what it calls the inside story of government agencies and Egypt's public establishments.

The AL-WAFD daily paper has been able to present the other side of the news, which of course is not presented by the national papers. The most open of these papers are seen as conservative compared to AL-WAFD, which can be likened to some of the papers which are issued in America and Europe and depend on explosive, captivating news items.

Many Problems

Several years ago, when AL-WAFD began coming out as a weekly paper, it did not have an office where the editors might meet. At that time Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, head of the Wafd party, offered his office as a temporary location for this small paper until it got a small building in the middle of Cairo, an old-style building with cramped rooms. The editorial system moved there along with the Wafd party and its leadership, represented by Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, who runs party affairs from this building.

The editor-in-chief's office does not measure more than 5 square meters, and it is extremely modest. It is next to the office of the "Pasha," who meets there with his followers and members of his party.

Next to those two rooms is a relatively large room on the second floor. There the few journalists carry out their journalistic tasks in order to put out the paper, whose distribution reached half a million copies in the weekly edition and a quarter of a million copies in the daily edition, it is claimed.

The editor-in-chief of AL-WAFD newspaper is himself a member of the People's Assembly from Port Sa'id. Mustafa Shurdi, a man in his forties, believes in giving opportunities to young journalists who do not have a chance in the national papers that are full of senior journalists. Therefore AL-WAFD paper is a paper of young people run by three old-timers who guide these young people along the right path.

Mustafa Shurdi said: "For me, publishing a newspaper in this world is very complicated and difficult. The newspaper has become an economic project that needs millions of pounds to stand on its own two feet.

"However, we issued the weekly AL-WAFD with a loan from Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, and God has granted us success, so we have been able to reach a distribution of half a million copies.

"When we thought about issuing AL-WAFD as a daily, during the past elections for the People's Assembly, we saw that our capabilities were extremely weak.

"We do not control anything except the masthead of the newspaper, because we do not own a press and commercial printing costs us a lot. Also, we do not own a distribution company for the paper, which adds to our losses. In spite of all these challenges, we issued AL-WAFD as a daily, and we have maintained a very good level of distribution."

We interrupted the editor-in-chief to ask him about financing, especially since, as he said, there is no paper on earth that covers itself by its distribution alone but rather needs advertisements. Or is there some party that is behind the newspaper and supports it, as has been rumored about AL-WAFD?

Mustafa Shurdi answered quietly, "Most of the advertising in Egypt depends on companies in the public sector, and these companies do not advertise in opposition papers, since they are content to advertise in government papers in order to get government approval. Even the private companies are afraid to advertise with us. As for the finance companies--in spite of our stance in favor of economic freedom, they do not advertise with us.

"And if some accuse us of receiving money from these companies or from one of the Arab states, then the answer to that is extremely simple, since they only have to look at the newspaper and at the many issues that we have to cut back on. If we had had this alleged support, we would have bought our own press, the number of pages in the daily paper would have increased, and our distribution would have grown and multiplied.

"AL-WAFD is a newspaper that is financed by its distribution and its limited advertisements, and it is able to continue without any outside help."

Confrontation

AL-WAFD newspaper enjoys and enmity of everybody.

It does not pursue an official or celebrity but it brings him to the ground. The journalistic middle-of-the-road denounces it for its long and vicious tongue. Others accuse it of lies, slander, and of filling its papers with whatever it likes for the sake of provocation and distribution.

The editor-in-chief and member of the People's Assembly replied: "We do not attack anyone without documentation. We do not make anything up. It is not our fault if there are many offenses. Should we keep quiet about them, or expose them?"

"When the AL-WAFD reporters get any piece of news and want to confirm it with the concerned minister, they are subjected to humiliation and beatings and are prevented from entering the ministry to confirm the news.

"And when we publish those news items, we find the ministers accusing us of not making a thorough investigation and not going back to them to get the truth.

"However, we have come to pay no attention to those ministers, and we have started to lay traps for them. We publish the news items, and they naturally hasten to say that they are lies and they think that we have made them up. So then we publish the documents that we have to silence them all."

"We only publish that for which we have documentation, but they still refuse to comment, leaving us to publish and to comment as well."

"The Egyptian government does not view us as part of the existing democratic system."

We asked Mustafa Shurdi about the front page news, since it is preposterous that all those exciting events could happen overnight.

Smiling broadly he replied: "We have news for each day and for future days, and we dare anyone to disprove these important news items."

We asked him about the story of Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement which had aroused the anger of President Husni Mubarak, for if AL-WAFD had no link to the government and its agencies, from where did it get news of that rapprochement?

He replied: "We may not have any sources in the Egyptian government, but that does not mean that sources from the other side are closed to us."

Party War

The strange and surprising thing is that the Wafd party is not safe from its newspaper's tongue.

The editor-in-chief attacked the behavior of some of the party's deputies when they did not walk out in protest over an insult to Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il.

There is also an obvious conflict between Yasin Siraj-al-Din, the Pasha's brother, and the chairman of the Wasfd party's parliamentary organization, and some have accused Mustafa Shurdi of devoting the paper to conducting attacks against Yasin and his friends.

Mustafa Shurdi commented on this, saying: "That is not new for AL-WAFD newspaper. For 10 years the newspaper has been criticizing its colleagues and the members of its party. AL-WAFD papers are used to discussing their affairs and those of party members on their pages."

Mustafa Shurdi attends meeting of the Wafd's top committee in his capacity as editor-in-chief of the newspaper. Anybody has the right to criticize the course taken by the paper, but nobody interferes with a single word that it prints, not even the head of the party himself. Shurdi went on to say: "When I felt humiliated, as a member of the People's Assembly, when a colleague of mine with whom I have a disagreement was insulted, and the Wafd members did not walk out, I felt that it was my duty to criticize what had happened in my party before criticizing anyone else.

"We are members of a party that calls for true democracy, and we cannot possibly demand what is right but forget ourselves."

Finally we asked Mr Mustafa Shurdi about him ambitions. He said:

"I hope to leave my position to one of the qualified young men who are here now, who have demonstrated their skill and ability to perform journalistic work.

"I would like to see a press for AL-WAFD printing, besides the national newspaper, a weekly magazine, a women's magazine, and a children's magazine.

"Egypt's journalistic arena is extremely impoverished, and there is a need for a new journalism that will satisfy the appetite of the Egyptian reader, as well as his heart and mind."

12547/12223

FADLALLAH COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

44000005 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 5-11 Oct 87 pp 14-17

[Article by Nadim Abou-Ghannam]

[Text]

The president's speech at the General Assembly did not discuss the roots of the Lebanese problem which lie in the lack of balance in power - sharing in the Lebanese state, declared Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah. He noted, however, that absence of justice in Lebanon's government created a sense of persecution, not only to Moslems but also to non - Maronite Christians who feel politically persecuted.

Fadlallah, said to be spiritual mentor of the Party of God (Hezbollah) said that persecution was one of the factors that resulted in Lebanon's war and opened gaps for those willing to penetrate into the Lebanese scene. He told Monday Morning last week that the Lebanese issue should not be discussed in a manner that will transform it into a complaint instead of being proposed as a topic for discussion. He described the Lebanese crisis as moving in a vicious circle, adding that the Arabs cannot present anything to this issue, whose roots are deeply embedded in the Palestinian cause. Fadlallah ruled out wide scale military clashes, in view of political factors imposed during this stage. He noted that the American presence in the Gulf area is now facing a critical situation, because it failed to resolve the problem of free navigation. The United States entered the Gulf to protect Kuwaiti tankers, but later on, was cornered by mounting political pressures at home and in the world. He explained the attack by the American helicopters against the Iranian tanker as an attempt to strengthen the American position in the Gulf in protecting tankers from mines.

In answer to a question on the effect of the Gulf War escalation on the hostage issue, Fadlallah said there was no direct influence on this issue. As for the anticipated Arab summit in Amman next November, he ruled out the chances of success for this summit if it was held in the absence of an international balanced stand between East and West. «Arab summits are not held as a result of an independent Arab resolution, but as a result of international interests which may or may not be harmonious with Arab interests», he declared, adding that this difference between positions in East and West may prevent the convening of the summit and may obstruct its success.

Commenting on press reports on the assassination attempt against him in Bir al - Abed in 1985, Fadlallah said :

1 — The issue was American and was a response to the 1983 suicidal attacks carried against the Marines.

2 — The firm relation between certain Arab states and the U.S. prompted the latter to finance any American operation in this direction

3-The accusation made that a certain Arab official discussed with Mr. Casey a 2 - million dollar aid for Fadlallah followers. was ridiculous and baseless.

In a reference to the political stagnation, Fadlallah said it was unlikely that a military outbreak would end this stagnation. However, he stressed that the Gulf War and the Palestinian issue will determine the future course of events on the local scene.

The daily living pressures and the economic collapse are part of the great war to «tame» the citizen who are calling for change, and to neutralize the silent majority. To end this civil strife, he expected a firm stand by the people who want to get rid of the starvation, leaving the officials do what they want to do.

Following is a translation of the interview, which was conducted in Arabic :

How do you evaluate the speech of President Gemayel at the General Assembly ? What in your viewpoint will be his future plan and what impact will it have on the Lebanese scene ?

In my opinion, the speech discussed the outcome of the Lebanese problem, but did not discuss its roots. We know that the roots of the Lebanese crisis, on the local scene, are the lack of balance in real power - sharing. The absence of justice in Lebanon's government has created a sense of persecution with one Lebanese group facing another group. I don't mean the Moslems alone, because some of the non - Maronite Christians feel this persecution on the political level.

I imagine that the president and his entourage are responsible for the continuation of this grave issue, its spreading and its bypassing of all prerogatives. This issue is one of the factors that waged more than a war in Lebanon and opened gaps for those willing to penetrate into the Lebanese scene. Solving the Lebanese crisis, through issuing appeals for the withdrawal of foreign armies and sides which are effective on the Lebanese scene, that is to say the Palestinians and Iranians, indicated that the president the Lebanese issue in a preaching and oratorical manner. Such issues are linked to the general political atmosphere on the regional level which is currently dominated by two complexed issues : the Gulf War and the Palestinian problem. I believe that facing the world with the Lebanese cause requires a position that confirms to the depth of the issue, and not on topics of consumption. We should not

discuss the Lebanese issue in this manner, because it will be transformed into complaints, instead of being presented as a discussion of a problem through its real regional factors. As for what may happen, or what are the aspirations that may be achieved, I believe that the issue is turning in a vicious circle.

We know that the Arab situation, and most of its symbols, cannot present anything to this issue, nor to its roots which are deeply embedded in the present situation or in the Palestinian cause. How can this person achieve anything through the Arabs, or through those benefitting from the Lebanese scene, by activating their political plans ? How can all contacts achieve great results in this respect ? I believe that some of the regional and international political positions will render some services on the level of the present crisis especially that there is still a long time before a solution is achieved.

How do you expect the Gulf War to proceed ? Will it maintain its present status, or will there be bloody clashes ?

I believe that wide - scale bloody clashes are ruled out, in view of the political factors imposed during this stage at least. I think the American presence in the Gulf, in such a great parade, and which has also involved some of the European countries, is now facing a critical situation because it was not able to achieve anything on the Gulf War level, moreover it failed to resolve the problem of free navigation. What was taking place was a sort of limited operations within the framework Iraqi raids on Iranian tankers. We know that the U.S. entered the Gulf under the motto of protecting the Kuwaiti tankers, but later it was cornered by mounting political pressures at home and in the world. This role of protecting the Kuwaiti tankers fell short of this great military parade. I explain the attack against the Iranian tanker by the American helicopters as an attempt to «show the American flag» in the Gulf. You must recall that the U.S. did not at the time of the attack, provide photographic proof. This would seem to indicate that the U.S. is looking for any pretext or incident which can be shown on the «information level», or to indicate that its presence in the Gulf is beneficial and effective. I think that partial incidents in certain battle-fields will take place but will not lead to a great war, because there are international red lines, and each international group will stay within prescribed borders.

How would the escalation of the Gulf War affect the hostage issue, do you think ?

I don't think there is direct influence on this issue, because as we all know it has reached a certain stage whereby things have started moving within bilateral relations, instead of moving within general political lines.

What is your viewpoint regarding the Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman next November ?

I don't think this summit will have a great chance of success if it was held in the absence of an international stand that takes into consideration the international balance in relations between East and West.

We know that the Arab summits are not held as a result of an Independent Arab resolution, but as a result of international Interests, which may or may not be harmonious with the Arab Interests. Thus, the difference between positions in East and West, with respect to the strategic interests of the political lines, may prevent the convening of a summit, and may obstruct the success of this summit. A best proof would be that of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting on September 20, which was supposed to issue a decisive resolution concerning future Iranian - Arab relations if a ceasefire is not reached. But this meeting ended with no results and the conferees instead of reaching such a resolution decided to hold a summit meeting whose chances of success may not be better than those of any resolution to severe relations with Iran.

We do not explain this in terms of inter-Arab relations, but through the green, red or yellow lights which are moving on the International scene, and in the light that the Arab scene is always trying to be complementary with the International one. I rule out the convening of a summit of all the Arab states, and I rule out its success on the basis of what was mentioned before and on the basis of past experiences.

What is your comment on what was published in the press last week about the 1985 explosion at Beirut - Abed and which was basically aimed against your life ?

1) The first point is that from the very beginning I felt that the issue was American and I knew that it was a response to the explosion of the Marines, while the American Intelligence was accusing me of being behind all this. This is why I declared the U.S. responsibility from the beginning. The poster in front of the burnt houses entitled : «Made in the United States », was the proof . We know that when the U.S. moves , it does not have details on this matter, although we were able to lay our hands on certain guide lines concerning Lebanese, American and Israeli involvement through those who implemented this operation. We were not astonished with the involvement of American intelligence on this issue, and our intuition in the past and at present are correct.

2) The second point is that talk of the relation of a certain Arab state in this issue is not astonishing, because we know the firm relation between certain Arab states and the U.S. Such a relation prompts them to finance any American operation in this direction if the U.S. official could not obtain the approval of the House of Senates.

3) The third point is that the accusation/made that a certain Arab official during his discussion with Mr. Casey the former contacted me to accept a 2 - million dollar aid for my supporters (followers) on condition that they not attack the European and International Interests is really ridiculous and groundless. (1) The message mentioned a 2 - million dollar worth of foodstuffs and medicines. I challenge anyone or any side who can prove that such aid was provided to us. And I declare that we even objected to the distribution of foodstuffs that were offered to the Lebanese in general, and even those given to the poor Moslems. This issue is

ridiculous, because it contradicts the real facts on the private or public levels. (2) If I were responsible for the suicidal operations, and the funds were paid to make me commit myself not to undergo such operations; how do you explain what happened if there was a commitment, Is there a violation of the commitment ? If it was true, that a Gulf prince discussed with Mr. Casey this topic, he would be trying to show himself as capable of protecting American interests through Arab funds. I challenge , through your magazine, all world Intelligence to prove that I have any financial relation with any state or with any political side in the world, even Iran. I strongly challenge anyone to prove such a contention, and I am ready to confront anyone who takes up my challenge.

On the local level do you think the political stagnation that Lebanon is facing will be activated by military outbreaks ?

I rule out a military outbreak, because it has no popular basis in any position. However, we cannot consider this probability utterly impossible, because under the effect of surprises, it is possible that official military organs will be used one way or the other for this end if the popular military organs or militias fail to do so. The question is whether the «dish» being prepared on the local scene needs a high flame or a low one. The course of developments in the Gulf War and in the Palestinian issue will determine how things work out in Lebanon in the near future.

Do you consider the economic recession and the difficult living conditions another «war» to impose solutions on the citizens in order to solve the Lebanese crisis ?

I imagine that it is part of the great war to «tame» the citizen who raises slogans of change on one side, and to neutralize the silent majority that may face issues negatively. This neutralization will facilitate the implementation of solutions, whether they are internally or externally reached, without facing any opposition. By that time the people would be completely exhausted to an extent that they would raise the following slogan : «We want neutrality regardless of its quality and far from the system that is moving within this neutrality». To put an end to the Lebanese civil strife, the whole people should stand firm and shout aloud «Save us from starvation, and do whatever you like to do.»

/13046

COUNCIL TO JA'JA' DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, REGIONAL AFFAIRS

44000002 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 28 Sep-4 Oct 87 pp 16-20

[Text]

Agreement on a government of national independence is necessary, and this can be achieved by diplomatic and political means, not by force, declared Toufik Hindi, adding that, by time, many will respond to this initiative openly.

Hindi, the political counsellor to the chief of the Lebanese Forces' militia L.F. Samir Geagea, told *Monday Morning* last week, that the national conference aimed at isolating the «liberated areas» and at gathering the forces in the «occupied regions» to exert pressure on the «liberated regions», accusing Syria of being behind these goals.

The Lebanese Forces' official confirmed that the L.F. do not have a military goal, noting that if military action was imposed on them, they would respond appropriately. Answering a question on the possibility of military rounds prior to the presidential election, he said the military operations proved to be useless, because the «liberated areas», were capable of answering back. He described the presidential election as an occasion to embarrass all countries, in view of the fact that the «liberated areas» will reject the method of the previous elections and negotiations with the occupier. He pointed out that the situation now is different from that of 1976, and it would be a «crime» if the L.F. accepted the present equations, and accepted a new president elected as a result of these equations.

«There is more than coordination but less than an alliance between the L.F., the Army and the president,» he declared, adding that their goal is the liberation of Lebanese territory from all foreign forces, and not only from Israeli forces. If Syria leaves Lebanon, it will form a basic introduction for the exit of all foreign forces from Lebanon, following which inter-Lebanese negotiations will start.

The aim of the visit by the vice-president of the L.F. to France was to present the Lebanese problem objectively. France is to be urged to participate in solving Lebanon's problems, Hindi said.

Hindi appealed to President Gemayel to follow up his proposal at the francophone summit, stressing that Lebanon's issue must be included in the accounts of superpowers and small countries alike.

In a reference to the elections of the House Speaker and deputy speaker, Hindi confirmed that the L.F. are trying to «show the Lebanese national role» in Parliament and «their ability to reject an accomplished fact.»

The American - Soviet accord was demonstrated in the U.N. Security Council resolution to stop the Gulf War. But their accord on this item does not mean that their struggle and contradictions are over. It is to be noted that Israel is not in favor of stopping the Gulf War, taking into consideration its policy in the region, and in a bid to prove to the United States that the Arab states cannot safeguard its interests in the region.

The priorities of the United States in the Middle East, Hindi suggested, were as follows : (1) Stopping the Gulf War through boycotting all countries having positive relations with the Iran, and trying to separate Syria from Iran. (2) Convening an International conference for peace in the Middle East, which seems to be difficult to succeed due to differences in Arab and Israeli moderation. (3) Syria's role in Lebanon, in relation to the first two priorities, and with respect to current issues of terrorism and that of the hostages.

Hindi extended his thanks to Saudi Arabia for «helping Lebanon and supporting its sovereignty, independence and liberty, under Lebanese legitimacy and peaceful dialogue.» He paid tribute to the «humanitarian and social aid granted by King Fahd to all the Lebanese, without discrimination,» and called for Saudi help in rebuilding the infrastructure of the Lebanese economy.

Following is the translation of the interview, which was conducted in Arabic :

You have asked for a government of national independence, but no one responded. Does this mean that you have failed and that you insist on achieving this by force ?

It is not true that no one responded to this initiative. On the contrary, with time, many will respond openly, and some are inwardly convinced that agreement on this government is necessary. I don't think that this issue will be achieved by force, but by diplomatic and political means, before the end of the President's term in office.

What is the stand of the Lebanese Forces regarding a national conference, whether you are invited, or you were excluded ?

A national conference as it is proposed, is well understood, in view of the «basic side» which called for it, and which is working for its convening, namely Syria. Its goal is to isolate the «liberated areas». Thus our stand is clear. Its goal is not one of unification, but aims at gathering all the forces in the «occupied areas» to exert pressure on the «liberated regions».

What is your viewpoint regarding the statement by Patriarch Sfeir, in which he said «It is not necessary for the displaced to return to their homes as though they are victorious, conquerors or invaders».

Definitely, it is not necessary that they return as conquerors, but they should return with their full liberty and dignity. They should not be considered as "second class citizens" in the areas from which they were displaced.

**Reports were circulated concerning military rounds
In most of the regions prior to the presidential
election. How far is this true ?**

I don't think there will be major military rounds, and I can't say the contrary. As far as we are concerned, we definitely do not have a military goal, but if military action was imposed on us, we shall respond appropriately.

Conditions so far don't indicate such battles might erupt in the light that Syria does not have regional and International support to take such a step. There are strong contradictions among all those who collaborated with Syria, whether willingly or unwillingly, because they are collaborating with Syria on the basis of the accomplished fact. Now these contradictions in positions between these sides and Syria, are increasing. The military operations proved to be useless during the war, because the «liberated areas» have sufficient capabilities to answer back.

**It was reported that Samir Geagea will declare his
candidacy, but is waiting for the right time. How true is
this ?**

I would like to reiterate my statement that the presidential election bypass the mere election of a president, to the beginning of a solution, and I believe that this occasion embarrasses all the countries, which do not expect any such circumstances. The embarrassment is that the «liberated areas» reject the method of the previous elections, in other words, reaching a sort of negotiation with the occupier, in a bid to reach a settlement. I think it is a crime to impose on Lebanon's future for the coming six months, a negotiation probably between Syria and certain countries in order to have a candidate that will administer the crisis.

The situation now is not like that of 1976, when the economic and social conditions in Lebanon were strong. There was a minimum level of coherence within the administrative authority, but today the state is shabby and torn. Thus the situation now is different from that of the past, and it would be a crime if the Lebanese Forces accepted the present equations. Any president, whoever he may be, cannot achieve any result. On the contrary, the people will become desperate and unable to tolerate the accomplished fact.

**Samir Geagea declared that the Lebanese Forces, the
Army and the president are in one trench. Does this
mean that there is a tripartite alliance facing the Front
for Unification and Liberation ?**

Definitely, there is more than coordination but less than an alliance. There is a unification attempt in the «liberated areas». The importance lies in the fact that it is not a force facing the Front for Unification and Liberation in as much as it is one : aiming at liberation. What we mean by liberation is the liberation from all foreign forces on Lebanese territory and not only from the Israeli forces.

Thus, Syria forms a basic obstacle at this stage in liberating Lebanon from all foreign forces. If Syria leaves Lebanon, this will be the pretext for the withdrawal of all foreign countries from Lebanon.

Following this inter - Lebanese negotiations will start whereby the Lebanese will gather around one table and will hold discussions as true Lebanese, and not as parties representing the wishes and trends of outside forces. The Lebanese are supposed to liberate their land, and their discussions should represent the wish of the Lebanese to unify their country, and not those of the occupants.

It was reported that Geagea prevented Dany Chamoun from visiting Minister Jumblatt In Shouf, to thank him for his participation in his father's funeral. Is that true ?

No. This is not true. We did nothing of the sort.

What is the aim of the visit of the vice president of the Lebanese Forces to France, and what is its outcome. Are there other tours, and where ?

L.F. Vice - President Karim Pakradouni's visit aimed at presenting the Lebanese problem objectively. The problem we are facing is the problem of two occupations, the wars among them and the war against the Lebanese and through the Lebanese. In addition, there were proposals made in a bid to urge France to participate in these solutions. As for the other tours, they are not ruled out.

Important talks were reported to be held between President Gemayel and Mr. Shultz, providing for a Lebanese - American pact, to confront the Soviet - Syrian pact. What do you expect from the president's visit to the United States ?

I am not informed about such details, and I rule out the possibility of discussing such a Lebanese - American pact, to confront the Soviet - Syrian one. We appeal to President Gemayel to follow up his proposal which he launched at the francophone conference in Quebec. It is very important to notify the superpowers and the small countries that there is an official and a popular Lebanese stand, which objectively and clearly presents its issue. He asked these countries to include the Lebanese cause in their accounts.

What is the Lebanese Forces' stand regarding the elections of the House speaker and the deputy speaker. Will you support Hussein and Moukhalber, or do you have your own candidates ?

We are trying to show the Lebanese national role in the Parliament, and its ability to reject the accomplished fact, and those following the foreign policy.

Do you think President Gemayel will form a new cabinet after his return from the United States ?
This is what I wish will happen. It is possible.

How do you explain the American - Soviet accord, and what is its repercussion on each of the Gulf War, the Middle East problem and the Lebanese crisis ?

There is accord over arms limitation and over the situation in the Gulf area. This accord was demonstrated through the U.N. Security Council resolution to stop the war. We should not consider their accord on certain items as an end to their contradictions and to the struggle between the two superpowers.

The struggle will take a new direction, especially over spheres of influences. We give an example, when the Western fleets entered the Arabian Gulf, there was a Soviet stand opposing this entry. The Soviets were supporting Iran against the American fleet. Thus, the war of the Gulf will continue, because Iran will not follow the way of the «balance of power» which is a Western logic, but rather the logic of the Islamic revolution in Iran, which rejects it. When force is imposed on them, they will react more fiercely, because they are aware of the current struggle between the superpowers.

On the other hand, the Israeli stand is not in favor of stopping the war in the Gulf, and in our viewpoint, this is part of the Israeli policy which manifests the American policy in the region. On their part, the Americans devote special attention to Israel and consider that they are regionally supported by Israel, and by their cooperation with moderate Arab states. Within this framework, Israel tries to maintain this war within specific limits without having negative outcomes on present conditions. It wants to prove to the United States, that the Arab countries cannot safeguard its interests in the region.

What do you think about the priorities for the United States in the Middle East ?

The first priority for the United States is to stop the Gulf War, especially that it was transformed from an Iraqi - Iranian war to an Iranian - Arab one. Some Arab oil countries are already involved in this war. There is great probability that the Gulf War will come to an end. The United States is trying to reach a minimum level of accord with the Soviet Union, on one hand, and is trying to boycott all the countries which have positive relations, be it commercial or military with Iran on the other hand. Within this framework, the United States is trying to drive a wedge between Syria and Iran. In our viewpoint Syria will maintain its alliance with Iran but to a lesser extent, and at the same time reconsider its relations with Iraq, without of course making profound changes in its position regarding the Gulf-War issue.

But I don't think the United States will succeed in this respect, in trying to separate Syria and Iran... In view of the contradiction between them, I don't expect Syria to play a major role in the Gulf War. This war will exert pressure on the moderate Arab states, to force them to accept the accomplished facts.

The other point, the aim of the American policy is to push ahead the peace process towards an international conference for peace. I believe that this conference has no hope of convening or of success, if it is convened, because there are many problems which prevent its convening. From the American viewpoint, this conference will be held for

bilateral negotiations between Israel and each of the Arab states separately, but according to the Soviets, it is going to be a comprehensive gathering for Arab - Israeli negotiations, following which the resolutions will be applicable and mandatory. Many problems will emerge, such as who will represent the Palestinians, the PLO or members of a joint Palestinian - Jordanian delegation. Will Syria participate and how? As for Israel, it is divided, The Labor Party wants an international conference for peace, while the Likud bloc rejects this conference, and this coalition is stronger than the Labor Party.

Even if this conference is convened, it will lead nowhere, because there are many differences between the Israeli and Arab moderation. This is why I rule out the possibility of convening this conference at present. Moves towards peace from the Western and American viewpoints will fill a political vacuum and will prevent war in the Middle East area. Within this framework, the United States considers Syria as an important force in the peace formation, on the military and political levels.

The third priority for the United States is the role of Syria in Lebanon, through the two previous priorities, with respect to the current terrorism in Lebanon and the hostage issue. This does not mean that the United States has given Syria the green light in Lebanon. This is not true. There are certain specific items allowed for Syria in Lebanon, and the rest are rejected by the United States.

The role of Syria in Lebanon will, I think become to attack the fundamentalists in Lebanon, to take hold of the Palestinian card, and to control the security situation in the areas where these forces are found, whereby Syria will be able to solve the issues of terrorism and that of the hostages. We do not expect success for Syria in this mission, because it is unable and unwilling to put an end to terrorism and to the hostage issue. In order to reach a final solution, Syria is requested to enter the southern suburb, where Hezbollah is located. This matter is ruled out for the following reasons :

- 1 — This means complete boycott between Syria and Iran, and this is unacceptable by Syria.
- 2 — This entry will cause a great number of victims among the Shiite ranks and among the Syrian Army.
- 3 — This issue will result in a massive Shiite and Amal basis around Hezbollah.
- 4 — This situation will weaken Nabih Berri, who is considered the basic ally of Syria.
- 5 — This situation will also create an antagonistic status between the Shiites and Syria, thus resulting in Syria losing a basic pressure tool in Lebanon.
- 6 — It will also prompt Iran to intensify its aid to fundamentalist movement and Palestinians, not only in Lebanon, but in Syria as well.

What do you wish the Saudi role to be, on the political and military levels after its engagement in the Gulf War?

We understand the Saudi positive outlook towards Lebanon, and we wonder, until when will the aid allocated by the Arab states for Lebanon remain frozen amidst the present political situation and in the absence of an effective Saudi diplomacy on the Lebanese scene, because of security conditions. We should however note the practical role of Saudi Arabia in helping Lebanon and supporting its sovereignty, independence and liberty. In my viewpoint, Saudi Arabia is more concerned for Lebanon than any other Arab country, in view of its great role on both the Arab and Islamic levels on the one hand, and because of the impact of the Gulf War on the conditions in Lebanon.

I believe there is a new Saudi trend, at present, which will play a more effective role in resolving significant Lebanese issues. The important address made by the Saudi monarch to the Lebanese people, in which he confirmed his deep concern for Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and independence, under the Lebanese legitimacy, and the peaceful dialogue confirms Saudi Arabia concern to resolve the Lebanese crisis. We have already extended our thanks to Saudi Arabia through the media, for the humanitarian and social aid granted by King Fahd to the Lebanese people without discrimination.

What is requested from Saudi Arabia now, is practical help in rebuilding the infrastructure of the Lebanese economy, whose basis have been shaken as a result of the political crisis and as a result of the various occupations of Lebanon. We, therefore, are looking forward for the return of Saudi Arabia to its unique and distinguished role, or to its role within the Arab comprehensive framework to solve all the problems engulfing the Lebanese crisis. I believe that this forms part of the Saudi concerns, in view of the fact that the Lebanese crisis and the Gulf War are very closely connected.

What is your opinion regarding the call for convening an Arab summit, where one party calls for discussion of the Gulf War, and the other party calls for an agenda that will include all regional topics ?

In my opinion, the major topic that should be discussed is the Gulf War, because the great danger threatening the Arab states, is now from Iran. The gravity of this issue lies in the fact that it is an outside danger which affects internal conditions all Arab states. Therefore, we expect Saudi Arabia to play a role in unifying the Arab ranks and in restoring Egypt to the Arab fold in view of the latter's importance in terms of military power, political weight, and population size, and its ability to play a major role in the Gulf War.

Syria's proposal concerning the Arab - Israeli conflict is an attempt to maintain Arab boycott of Egypt, thus rendering a great service for Iran. What is most important in this phase, is Iran's war against the Arabs. The Arabs should confront this danger, and should concentrate on discussing the Gulf War, since diverting their discussions to other regional issues, would disintegrate Arab ranks in confronting the growing Islamic fundamentalism coming from the outside and

causing internal instability in various Arab states. If the Arabs unite against the Persian enemy, not only verbally but practically, the stands of the superpowers will change. The latter then will be forced to commit themselves seriously, and will take firm measures regarding Iran. Arab solidarity will reflect positively on the internal conditions within the concerned countries, and will obstruct all disorders caused by Iran, through local groups in each state ●

/13046

EXPANDED TRADE TIES WITH PHILIPPINES ANTICIPATED

44000003b Riyadh RIYADH DAILY in English 15 Sep 87 p 2

[Article by Ahmed Hassan]

[Text]

JEDDAH, Sept. 14 — Direct trade and economic relations between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia have through the years continued to exert growing influence on the economic growth and development of both countries, Rodrigo D. Apoderado, Philippine commercial attache in Saudi Arabia told *Riyadh Daily*.

Consistently one of the top trading partners of the Philippines worldwide, Saudi Arabia is currently the biggest market for Philippine manpower and expertise, the biggest supplier of crude oil requirements and the most important commercial destination in the Middle East for Philippine exports, Apoderado said.

On the other hand, the Philippines is credited with the huge supply of technical and project management expertise and manpower required in the implementation of Saudi Arabia's massive industrial development program, Apoderado said.

Such assistance is basically reflected in all sectors of economy particularly in the physical infrastructure all over the Kingdom. Philippine participation is equally visible in business, health, agriculture and service sectors, Apoderado added.

Even after completion of Saudi Arabia's mega projects, the Philippines continued to hold competitive advantage in the manpower market with the supply of expertise in communications networks, process engineering, air traffic control, port operations, power stations, paramedics and consultancy services, Apoderado said.

Asked about Philippines' plans to attract Saudi investment, Apoderado said that being aware of the Saudi government's policy to strengthen its contribution to the growth of other developing countries in the form of direct investments, the Philippines hopes to tap and channel Saudi investments into preferred areas of economic development in the Philippines.

To encourage the flow of foreign investments particularly from Saudi Arabia, the Manila government is implementing the most liberal foreign investments policy in South East Asia with attractive privileges, guarantees and incentives unmatched in the entire Pacific region, Apoderado said.

On ways of promoting trade ties between the two sides, Apoderado said, as priority target, the Philippines Commercial Bureau and the Philippine Economic

Council in Saudi Arabia (PECSA) jointly hope to bring in a high-powered Saudi trade and investments mission to the Philippines late this year or early next year, Apoderado said.

Organized to promote closer Saudi-Philippine economic relations, PECSA is composed of a well-trained Filipino businessmen and deeply motivated professionals bound only by the objective to expedite the economic recovery of the Philippines, Apoderado added.

By the latter part of 1988, the Philippines hopes to emerge as the largest economic powerhouse in Asia and the regions leading exporter of electronics, all categories of garments and food products, for these items the Philippines this year is aiming for an export increase of 58 percent, 39 percent and 25 percent respectively, Apoderado said.

Describing the Philippine economy, Apoderado quoted the latest report from the Bureau of Foreign Trade (BFT) Manila that "inflation is down, interest rates are down and banks awash with cash are extending more consumer credits. Stimulating business with new life is the recent reduction of corporate income tax which is major cause of jubilation among Filipino and businessmen."

"Sales in major industries are up by as much as 100 percent over the first quarter last year. Prices in Manila are moving up, a good sign of significant consumer buying," Apoderado added.

Speaking on the campaign to bring in Saudi investment for economic development and joint venture operations in the Philippines, Apoderado said, the Philippines has all the advantages including strategic location, the natural resources, the manpower which is flexible, highly trained, English speaking and productive.

On the top of a dynamic private sector conducive to growth, the new government, he said, was committed to private initiative deregulation and reduced red tape.

With capital investment parti-

cipation in Philippine ventures, Saudi entrepreneurs will enjoy the Philippine ventures, Saudi entrepreneurs will enjoy the Philippines zero or low-duty access to the United States market for more than 6,000 products, Apoderado said, adding that other Asian countries like Taiwan and South Korea no longer enjoy this privilege under the GSP for which the US imports about US\$50 billion annually.

Stressing that the Philippine foreign investments policy is the most liberal in the whole region, Apoderado said that for an investment as little as \$75,000 a Saudi investor could stay for as long as he wants in the Philippines while that investments Filipino with the exception of the right of suffrage.

"We have also an omnibus investment code which simplifies investment rules and regulations," Apoderado told *Riyadh Daily*.

For the past seven years, the Philippines has maintained its share in the Arabian market, from 1980-1986. Philippine exports stayed within the \$50 million level, Apoderado said.

On the other hand, Philippine import of crude oil from the Kingdom maintained the same volume. In 1983 Philippine crude oil imports amounted to \$900 million, due to oil price fluctuation in the international market, crude price of some volume amounted to little more than \$500 million, Apoderado added.

Listing the Philippine exports to Saudi Arabia, and rest of the Middle East, Apoderado said, these include fresh bananas and pineapples, garments and other categories of wearing apparel, food-stuff, construction materials, processed fruits and vegetables, gifts and housewares, furniture and furnishings, footwear and other leather goods and non-alcoholic beverages.

But the biggest single Philippine exports to the Kingdom is manpower which accounts for much of the annual foreign exchange remittance from Saudi Arabia.

Considered most promising for market development in the Kingdom are cigars and cigarettes, live sheep and goats, dessicated coconuts, dehydrated fruits, processed fish (tuna) and fruit puree, Apoderado said.

Other products from the Philippines which have considered scope for expansion in the Saudi Arabian market are, batteries, wall clocks, watches, electrical goods, wooden and rattan furnitures, Apoderado added.

Apoderado also made clear, effective export penetration in the Saudi Arabian market as far as the Philippines is concerned must initially overcome difficulties being experienced in its expansion of trade, which mainly involved shipping costs from the Philippines which is being relatively higher than Saudi Arabia's traditional sources and even from neighboring countries as Taiwan and South Korea.

Scarcity of information about the requirement of the Saudi Arabian market, little knowledge of Saudi businessmen and importers with regard to the supply capabilities of the Philippines for their requirements, difficulties in obtaining visas and high costs involved for visiting Filipino businessmen in Saudi Arabia which inhibit from them in developing business in the Kingdom, the absence of government agreements which can act as a psychological barrier to the active pursuit of an expanded trade relationships by the private sector, are among the major difficulties that should be initially overcome, he said.

For the Philippines to be successful in its pursuit for an expanded trade with the Saudi Arabia market, the country must work

for the establishment of more direct shipping services between Philippine and Saudi ports. A joint venture between the Philippine government entity with a Saudi private interest must be considered in the absence of similar interest from any Philippine private group, Apoderado said.

Asked about further measures for making business a success, Apoderado said, a comprehensive product-by-product survey of the Saudi market, commencing with the identification of products with the best potential should be conducted regularly.

A promotional trust designed to educate the Saudi business community and the consuming public about the supply capabilities which can be offered by the Philippines suppliers to meet the Saudi Arabian import requirements such as the establishment of a permanent venues for exhibiting Philippines products with the private participation, encouragement of the chambers of commerce of the two countries for agreement designed for mutual trade promotion activities, exchange of information and trade documentation, besides the setting up of a trade information center within the Philippine Center, holding of specialized trade exhibitions and food festivals are also proposed by the Philippine side.

Above all Apoderado said, the conclusion of cooperation agreement on trade and economic and technical cooperation will have beneficial effects on the bilateral trade between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

REPORT CITES DECLINE IN PRIVATE SECTOR

40000001a Riyadh RIYADH DAILY in English 21 Sep 87 p 2

[Text]

RIYADH, Sept. 20 (SPA) — According to a statistical report released by the statistics department, 1,619,000 persons were employed by private sector establishments during Jamada Awal 1406H. This constituted a 1.5 percent decrease in the total number of employed persons in the first month of the same year and a decrease by 0.6 percent in the employed people during the same period in 1405H.

Of the total employees, 33.6 percent were employed by the commercial sector, 26 percent by the sector of construction and 17.2 percent were employed by the industrial sector.

Meanwhile, the operation costs reached during Jamada Awal 1406H about SR30 billion. This constituted a decrease by 3.5 percent in the costs during the same period in 1405H.

SR9,453 million were spent in the commercial sector. This constituted 31.5 percent of the total expenditure.

SR6,601 million, 22 percent of the total expenditure was spent in the mining sector, 12.4 percent of the total expenditure was spent in the transformatory industries, while 12.2 percent was spent in the construction sector.

The total paid wages during the first month of 1406H reached SR5,077 million, 23 percent of the total wages was paid to the employees of the commercial sector, 17 percent to the employees of the construction sector, and 15 percent to the employees of transformatory industries.

The revenues of the operation during Jamada Awal 1406H reached SR37,757 million. This constituted an increase by 4.5 percent in the revenues of the same period in 1405H.

The commercial sector contributed 30.6 percent of the total revenues and the mining sector 20.7 percent.

Meanwhile, operation revenues for the social services sector increased by 129 percent.

/9274

SUPPORT OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION PRAISED

44000003a Riyadh RIYADH DAILY in English 23 Sep 87 p 2

[Article by Mohd. Rasooldeen]

[Text]

RIYADH, Sept. 22 — The Saudi Arabian government not only helps the World Health Organization (WHO) office in the Kingdom, but also helps to carry out its programs in the region, the WHO representative to the Kingdom, Dr. M. Arefei-Yafi told *Riyadh Daily*.

The Kingdom has been extending generous donations for WHO programs in Yemen Arab Republic for the last 10 years. It has also given financial assistance to control malaria in the North and South Yemen, Sudan and Somalia. "This dreadful disease is kept under control due to the WHO programs funded by the Kingdom," he said.

Saudi Arabia became a member states of the WHO in 1947. It has been an active member since its enrolment to the WHO. The organization has been collaborating with the Kingdom in numerous projects for the past 30 years.

The first WHO undertaken in the Kingdom was the control of infectious disease. Diseases such as malaria, schistosmia, leishmania are kept under control with the initiative of the WHO, Dr. Yafi said.

Primary health care centers have been established in the Kingdom in 1983 to reach the WHO target of "health for all by 2,000.

These primary health care centers have been rendering unparalleled services to rural areas, Dr.

Yafi said. "The medical personnel do not confine themselves to their centers, they go to every house in the area to prepare a case history of each family," he said.

A good number of unreported cases had been detected due to field trips, he said. Cases of malnutrition are also detected in the process. These centers are very useful to maintain good health among the citizens. The centers are fully equipped with the latest medical apparatus and machinery, he said.

"We collaborate with the ministry of health in health research programs. Further, training programs are organized in this respect to train researchers. Vaccination is also part of our preventive services," Dr. Yafi said.

The vaccination programs encourage parents to get their children vaccinated against six killer diseases. Every parent makes use of this facility in the interest of his own children, he said.

WHO programs are carried out in environmental health centers with the collaboration of the ministry of municipal and rural affairs, to organize this workshop. WHO is closely associating with the ministry of health in carrying out numerous services. Among them are rehabilitation services, strengthening of mental health services, prevention and control of alcoholics, workers' health, health and manpower development and health education, he said.

PRINCE FAHD INAUGURATES COMMUNICATION CENTER

44000004 Riyadh RIYADH DAILY in English 17 Sep 87 p 2

[Text]

UMLOJ, Sept. 16 (SPA) — Tabuk Governor Prince Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz inaugurated the Saudi Communication Center (SCC) in Umloj today, one of the main towns of the governate of Tabuk.

Prince Fahd, who arrived here last night within an inspection tour that has taken him already to Dhuba and Al-Wajh was, following the inauguration, briefed on the center's departments, functions and facilities.

The center which was equipped with highly-sophisticated systems, includes a pay station, telex and telegraph services.

In a written comment, Prince Fahd expressed admiration and appreciation over the "new capabilities and developments" he had witnessed at SCC.

Then the Prince paid inspection visits to Umloj's municipality, general hospital and water desalination station.

At the municipality, where he was received by the Tabuk Mayor Zeid Al-Atawi and Umloj Mayor Mohammed Al-Zarrraa, Prince

Fahd was briefed on the public utilities put by the municipality for the people.

The Prince said he was impressed by the X-ray and wards at the General Hospital.

He also expressed happiness on his visit to the water desalination station.

In a statement to the press, at the conclusion of the tour of Umloj, Prince Fahd said his visit came within his field work to get acquainted with his governate's matters prior to his daily office work.

In a similar statement, director of SCC, Ziad Abdullateef said the just-opened facility is the fourth of its kind implemented by the Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones (PIT).

The four communication facilities in Taima, Hagl, Al-Qotaiba and Umloj have cost a total amount of SR12 million, he said.

Al-Zarrraa, on his part, told newsmen his municipality spent SR750,000 worth of dual road at the entry of Umloj as well as resort facilities along the shore.

/13046

SAUDI ARABIA

NEAR EAST

BRIEFS

KINGDOM TOPS GCC in '84 AID--Riyadh, 17 Sep--The financial commitments of the Gulf Cooperation Council to developing countries in 1984 amounted to \$4.8 billion, according to figures released recently by an economic bulletin published by the GCC secretariat. Ninety percent of the aid was covered through bilateral agreements and the rest through multilateral pacts. Disbursements that year amounted to \$4.39 billion, against \$7.88 billion in 1981, and that was equivalent to 2.73 percent of the collective GCC gross domestic product (GDP) in 1984 against 3.45 percent in 1981. The bulletin pointed out that aid from Saudi Arabia represented the bulk by accounting for 76.6 percent of the total in 1981 and 83.1 percent in 1984. Regarding disbursements, the Kingdom was again on the top--75.5 percent in 1984. The bulletin added that the GCC trade with other Arab countries witnessed a sharp decline in 1985, to \$3.25 billion from \$6.7 billion in 1981. Exports dropped by 48 percent to \$2.61 billion during four years ending in 1985, while imports declined during the same period by 60 percent to \$643 million. [Text] [44000001b Riyadh ARAB NEWS in English 18 Sep 87 p 2] /9274

SEMINAR STUDIES EMIGRANT WORKERS' PROBLEMS, CONTRIBUTIONS**Trade Fair To Follow**

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 3 Aug 87 pp 10-11

[Article by Hedia Baraket]

[Excerpt] Beginning on Wednesday, 29 July, Monastir hosted the work of the 21st national seminar on emigrant workers.

In addition to items included on the agenda of this session and going beyond the concerns debated at length at preceding meetings, there was a clear determination on the part of organizers this time to ensure followup of the seminar.

For the second year, an economic trade fair will be organized outside the framework of the seminar, at which some 40 industrial and agricultural promoters will give a living example to other emigres wishing to invest in the country. It should be noted that projects completed between 1975 and 1987 total 2,277, mobilizing 122 million dinars and creating 27,000 jobs.

Chaired by Hedi Baccouche, minister of social affairs, the 21st seminar of Tunisian workers abroad has begun in Monastir.

Five subjects are included on the agenda and on the program of the seminar's committees: the contribution of our emigrant community to the country's economic development; the situation of the second generation born of emigrant workers; education and culture; organization and information; and finally, the different aspects of the moral and patriotic behavior of our community in host countries.

Statistics on Remitted Funds

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 3 Aug 87 pp 10-11

[Article by Mohamed Hamrouni]

[Text] The Tunisian community abroad is capable of playing a prime role in our national economy.

At the dawn of independence, the Tunisian colony had no more than 15,000 nationals living abroad, including 5,000 in France. By 1962, that number had increased to 27,000 and by 1985, some 400,000, with 263,000 in France.

We must know how to handle those human resources, not only in terms of constant attention to their sacred rights, but also based on economic criteria. The figures are there: Funds transferred by our Tunisian emigrant workers went from 225 million dinars in 1985 to 287 million in 1986. These figures are quite high and should be compared with the contribution of the tourist sector, which totaled 385.8 million dinars in 1986.

Difficult Immigration

In France, the foreign community continues to grow, but at an increasingly slower rate. After an increase of 31 percent between 1968 and 1975, it fell to only 7 percent from 1975 to 1982, totaling 4 million persons officially. Over 80 percent of the foreigners have resided there for over 10 years.

Tunisia still has thousands of illegal workers abroad, mainly in France and Italy.

Since the laxity of the law of October 1981, thanks to which 130,000 illegal workers obtained legal residence papers, French authorities issued 1/20th the employment authorizations in 1986 that they did in 1982, thus adopting a policy of deterrence to limit the explosion of emigrant workers.

Illegals

For its part, the policy of encouraging workers to return home has not yielded the desired results. Before 1981, only 100,000 persons took advantage of it.

Out of distrust for authorities or fear of losing their jobs, illegal workers often refuse to seek legal status. At the same time, employers hesitate to legalize the status of their employees in order not to pay all they would owe for previous years of social security contributions. One might note that an illegal worker does not receive wages or benefits provided for by collective bargaining. An illegal worker receives only one-half or one-third the wage of a legal worker. When his wages double, the funds sent by our emigrant workers increase. Consequently, the contribution in foreign exchange is more significant.

In other words, this is an economically fragile and socially deprived social sector that must be handled properly and supported. For that reason, the Office for the Promotion of Employment and Tunisian Emigrant Workers (OPETTE) has not failed in its mission with our consular and diplomatic offices in Italy in order to ensure that our illegal workers obtain the benefits provided for by the so-called "amnesty" law that went into effect in January and that extends until 27 April 1987, offering better prospects for our workers (1). This is a welcome measure in a country that still exported labor only 20 years ago.

However, that is not all that remains to be done. New measures to strengthen and support the law to help immigrants and integrate those who remain will always be needed in order to develop bilateral cooperation and stimulate the professional integration of the second generation.

The training of young people of foreign ancestry with a low level of skills must receive extra attention. In this connection, it is also important to broaden the field of application of the French law of 1972 condemning any encouragement of racial discrimination, in order to ensure better integration. Such racial discrimination would not be removed without the amendments to that law, amendments that entitle legal entities and not only the different associations to institute legal proceedings in connection with discriminatory employment offers.

No legislation whatsoever must deny the humanitarian nature of a reform that will offer thousands of immigrants an opportunity to finally legalize their status and be courageous enough to go to the hospital when they are sick, to the police station when they are the victims of crime and to get to know the country or city where they make their contribution, without the fear of being taken to the border.

FOOTNOTES

1. This is a new Italian law on the conditions of residency of foreigners published in the GAZZETTA UFFICIALE (Italian Official Journal) on 12 January 1987, which went into effect on 28 January 1987. It was to expire on 27 April 1987. Its purpose: to legalize the situation and status of foreign workers entering Italy before 31 December 1981.

11,464
CSO: 4519/0141

TUNISIA

NEAR EAST

BRIEFS

ALGERIAN MILITARY DELEGATION VISITS--(TAP)--Yesterday morning, Slaheddine Baly, minister of national defense, met with a delegation from the Central Social Action Administration of the Algerian People's National Army in his offices. Major Hassan Moulay, head of the agency, delivered to Baly a message from Major General Abdallah Belhouchet, Algerian deputy minister of defense responsible for the Army staffs, and General Mustapha Chaloufi, general secretary of the Algerian Ministry of Defense, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the republic. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French
29 Jul 87 p 2] 11,464

CSO: 4519/0141

ZAHIR SHAH FOR DIRECT MOSCOW-MUJAHIDIN TALKS

46000002a Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Interview with ex-king Mohammad Zahir Shah by Maleeha Lodhi, MUSLIM's associate editor; date and place not specified]

[Text]

SEPTEMBER 16: The former monarch of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah, has said that the path to a political settlement lies in direct negotiations between Moscow and the Afghan resistance. He however firmly ruled out any power sharing with the PDPA regime in Kabul. In an exclusive and wide ranging interview with The Muslim, ex-King Zahir Shah, who lives in exile in Rome, expressed his willingness and readiness to play any role that "the Afghan people may charge" him with, to help bring peace and restore Afghanistan's independent and non-aligned status. He said he is prepared to go to any country where possibilities existed for him to serve the cause of peace.

In the interview, the former king urged unity among the Afghan people while paying tribute to their heroic struggle in defending their dignity and independence. Agreeing that a change in attitude toward Afghanistan can be detected in the new Soviet leadership under Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, he stressed that in order to acquire credibility, words had to be translated into deeds. Moscow, he said, should accept and act on the resolutions of the UN General Assembly to show its commitment to peace. According to him any negotiated political settlement had to be based on the unconditional

withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the restoration of the country's independence and territorial integrity, its right to self-determination and the return in honour of the refugees to their homeland. He emphasised that there could be no compromise on any of these points. He also firmly ruled out any power sharing with the PDPA regime in Kabul.

While saying that there are many ways in which talks aimed at achieving a political settlement can be held, he insisted that these must include the real parties to the Afghan conflict — the "Soviet Union who has invaded our country, and the Afghan people who are resolutely defending it." Many forums, he said, are available to deal with the key question of a

suitable interim government that could oversee the withdrawal of Soviet troops. They include the UN and the OIC, but there was also "the possibilities of direct contacts between governments". Answering questions about an interim regime, Zahir Shah stressed that only a government that had the support of the majority of the Afghan people could possibly exercise legitimate authority in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's former ruler answered the charge of critics that he had not participated in the jihad by saying that the jihad has many aspects and dimensions which is carried out in the battle field as well as in the political, diplomatic and international levels. "At the outset", he declared, "I proclaimed my solidarity with the Resistance, which represents the heroic Afghan nation." In the interview, the ex-King also praised the Pakistani nation for courageously standing by a people who are defending Islam and freedom.

Zahir Shah who is now 74, has lived with his family in exile in Rome since he was deposed in 1973. His son-in-law and cousin, General Abdul Wali, who also lives in Rome, has been his key political aide and adviser. Interestingly, King Amanullah also spent his exile in Rome. Zahir Shah was in Europe for medical treatment in July 1973 when his cousin and brother-in-law, Mohammed Daoud, deposed him in a bloodless coup d'etat, abolished the monarchy, declared Afghanistan a republic and himself its President.

Zahir Shah ruled Afghanistan for 40 years. He was nineteen when he acceded to the throne in 1933 following the assassination of his father Nadir Khan. In the early years of his reign, it was the 'royal uncles' who ruled. Later, during 1964-1973, Zahir Shah embarked on an experiment in liberal reform in which while retaining broad constitutional powers, he attempted to move his country toward a constitutional monarchy.

Today, fourteen years after he was ousted, Zahir Shah remains a rallying figure for large numbers of the Afghan people. He is widely seen as a figure who could bring about a coalescence of Afghan political groups to pave the way for a neutral interim government in Afghanistan.

In recent months he has emerged as a possible compromise figure in a future coalition government acceptable to the majority of the Afghan people. Recently an opinion survey carried out among refugees by the Peshawar-based

Afghan Information Centre showed that over 70 per cent of the people polled wanted to see Zahir Shah as Afghanistan's national leader.

Q. You broke a fairly long silence five months ago to say in an interview with Der Spiegel (the first major statement in 4 years) that you wanted to help your people "in whatever form to find a just solution" of the Afghan conflict. Subsequently you said in an interview with the BBC that you were ready to return and serve your people in any position to bring back peace to Afghanistan. What prompted you to make these statements at this particular juncture? And what exactly did you have in mind when you made these declarations?

A. In the course of the past eight years during which our country has been faced with the unjustified aggression perpetuated by the Soviet Union, I have been participating in undertakings to bring about the necessary conditions for the formation of a United Front of the Resistance. These efforts which are still in progress are being effected in coordination with the Resistance organisations as well as the majority of my countrymen, including those who are carrying our struggle for freedom from abroad. During all these years, I have not remained silent. On the contrary, I have regularly expressed myself through declarations, interviews and press releases. The initiative you mention (Spiegel, BBC) were quite routine and took place within the context of the above mentioned process. Obviously, any development for obtaining a settlement should be based upon the withdrawal of the Soviet armed forces, the restoration of Afghanistan's independence, the right of our people to self-determination and the territorial integrity of our country. Thus complying with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and supported by the overwhelming majority of its member nations.

Q. What efforts can you make to help restore your country's independence?

A. At this stage in order to regain Afghanistan's independence and assure its welfare, all Afghans should concentrate their efforts towards bringing about mutual understanding and unity among ourselves.

Q. Would you agree that the past seven years or more have demonstrated that the Afghan conflict cannot be resolved militarily, but only through a negotiated political settlement?

A. Confronted with an unjustified military aggression the people of Afghanistan are heroically defending our dignity and independence. It will be through these sacrifices that an equitable and honourable solution can be achieved.

Q. You have in fact said that you want to see a negotiated political solution to the Afghan conflict. How do you think this can be brought about?

A. The path leading to a political solution would be direct negotiations including the Soviet Union, who by invading Afghanistan created the problem, and the Afghan Resistance who is engaged in defending our Homeland. It should be based upon the United Nations' resolutions in the General Assembly demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet armed forces from Afghanistan, the restoration of our country's independence, its territorial integrity, the nations right to self-determination and the return in honour of the refugees to their homeland.

Q. Would you be willing to come to Pakistan to help craft or expedite such a negotiated settlement?

A. Whenever it might be necessary and the possibilities exist, I would be ready to go to any friendly country, in order to serve Afghanistan.

Q. No one seems any longer to doubt the Soviet desire to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan but the focus of diplomatic efforts aimed at a negotiated peace has broadened from the issue of a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan to the issue of the composition of the government that will be in place in Kabul when the Soviets begin to withdraw and the UN agreement comes into effect. All the sides to the conflict now seem to be converging toward seeing you as playing a key role in a future transitional government that will oversee the implementation of the UN agreement and

the withdrawal of Soviet forces. How do you envisage your own role in such an interim administration?

A. In the service of my country, in order to attain the objectives for which we are struggling, I will perform any duty that the people of Afghanistan may charge me with.

Q. What are your own ideas about a transitional or interim government?

A. Any concept regarding the formation of an interim government should conform to the conceptions of our people who, at the appropriate time, will express themselves and pronounce their decision. As far as the role of an interim government is concerned, I believe that primarily it should create better understanding and cooperation amongst our people without ethnical, linguistic or regional distinctions. It should also safeguard our religion and our independence, so that we can once again pursue our traditional policy of neutrality and non-alignment, entertaining good relations with all countries. Such a government would also have to draft a Constitution inspired by the holy principles of Islam, to be submitted to the nation and eventually see to its implementation.

Q: Do you think an intermediate position (that can be the basis of a compromise) can be found between the two views – the one arguing that the future coalition administration should be built around the PDPA (which so far is the formal Soviet position) and the one that says it should be built around the Seven-Party Peshawar-based Alliance of the Mujahideen? (Which is the starting point at present of the US government.)

A: It should be built upon the aspirations of the Afghan people. Around a legitimate body that would emerge as a result of national consensus.

Q: Would you support a compromise position that falls between 'remodelling' the Kabul regime and 'dismantling' it?

A: Only a government that has the support of the majority of the nation can possibly exercise legitimate authority in Afghanistan.

Q: What do you regard as the most appropriate forum to deal with this question, which is now described as the main sticking point in an Afghan peace settlement?

A: There are different organisations and forums that can deal with these questions; The United Nations, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Non Aligned Movement, The EEC, etc. They all have their purpose. There is also the possibilities of direct contacts between governments.

Q: The Soviets have recently been kiteflying, hinting at a Round Table Conference (with Moscow, Islamabad, the Kabul regime, Washington and the Mujahideen participating) of tripartite talks (between the Mujahideen, Kabul and Moscow) to expedite the search for peace. Do you think any of these ideas are worth exploring or pursuing?

A: There are many ways in which talks could be held, but as I mentioned before, the real parties concerned are the Soviet Union who has invaded our country and the Afghan people who are resolutely defending it. Therefore, they must participate in all negotiations, some of which could also include regional countries. However, the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council could very well be recommended in order to guarantee Afghanistan's independence and security.

Q: Do you think the Soviet leader Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev's approach to an Afghan peace settlement is radically different from his predecessors?

A: One can detect a change in attitude of the present Soviet leadership, but in order to acquire credibility words have to be put into deeds.

Q: You have flatly rejected Dr. Najib's offer to share power by entering a coalition government. If Moscow/Kabul were to indicate readiness for the PDPA to give up majority control, how would you view this?

A: Our objective is not to share power, but to reach a solution acceptable to the majority of the Afghan people.

Q: How do you see the Najib's regime's 'reconciliation' moves such as dropping 'Democratic' from Afghanistan's name and the promise of a new law to allow new political parties?

A: These are minor points of little significance, hardly worth commenting upon.

Q: What kind of a compromise solution would you find acceptable especially when juxtaposed against the alternative of the continued presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan?

A: The main conditions for a settlement are: The withdrawal of the Soviet armed forces, the restoration of Afghanistan's full independence, the integrity of our territory as well as the right of our people to self-determination. On these points there can be no compromise.

Q: What do you think Moscow needs to do - in terms of concrete proposals - to speed up a political settlement? What kind of hard decisions do you think the Soviets need to take?

A: To accept the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and to act accordingly.

Q: How do you think Moscow's fear of a bloodbath in Afghanistan, post-Soviet withdrawal can be dealt with in order to help them quit your country? In other words what sort of guarantees can be worked out?

A: After this conflict finds an equitable and just solution accepted by the majority of our people, then undoubtedly conditions will prevail where Afghans will be able to live in peace as brothers, in accordance with our national and religious traditions.

Q: Do you think the Reagan Administration would be willing to support a compromise settlement?

A: During these eight years, the United States has consistently supported the resolutions of the

United Nations General Assembly calling for a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan.

Q: How do you view the recent escalation of the war in Afghanistan as a result of the delivery of increasingly sophisticated weaponry to the Mujahideen? Do you support

the argument that the delivery of such weaponry is essential to raise the costs of the Soviet occupation; to ultimately force the Russians out of Afghanistan?

A: Although the Afghan nation favours a peaceful settlement, yet as long as this unjust war continues it is vital for the freedom fighters to use whatever means at their disposal to defend our country.

Q: How do you answer the charge of some of your critics that you did not participate in the jihad and sat out the war in Rome?

A: Jihad has many aspects and dimensions and should be carried out in the field as well as on the political, diplomatic and international levels. At the very

outset of the struggle, I proclaimed my solidarity with the Resistance, which represents the heroic Afghan nation. The fact that for the time being, I live in Rome, is not a matter of choice but a temporary obligation of which my countrymen are well aware.

Q: Why have you always shunned efforts to create a government-in-exile?

A: In order to establish a government in exile, acceptable to the

Afghan nation, certain conditions and preparations would be necessary, such as its location, its timeliness as well as its international considerations and legal aspects.

Q: How do you view Pakistan's role in the nearly eight year old Afghan crisis?

A: Pakistan as a Muslim nation has courageously accomplished its duties towards the refugees and the people of Afghanistan. It has stood at this tragic hour by a people who are defending Islam and freedom at the cost of well over a million casualties and the destruction of

countless towns and villages, thus deserving rightly the admiration of Islamic countries and other freedom loving nations. I am convinced that this attitude shown by Pakistan will yet strengthen the ties between two peoples who have so much in common.

Q: What is your vision of Afghanistan in the future?

A: It is of an independent and Muslim Afghanistan, where its citizens may enjoy freedom, live in peace and take the destiny of their country into their own hands, and by non-alignment, be able to contribute to the stability of the region on which world security and peace greatly depends.

/13046

MUJAHIDIN IN SIGHT OF VICTORY SAYS HIKMATYAR

46000002b Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Sep 87 p 8

[Article by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Sept. 25: The Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan chief, Gulbadin Hikmatyar, has said Afghan Mujahideen were in sight of victory in their 'jehad' against Soviet occupation and communist regime in Kabul provided the Pakistan Government and people continued to lend them moral support by refusing to be intimidated by the accelerated sabotage activities and cross-border raids.

In an interview with 'The Muslim' at the Hezb-e-Islami's newly-built headquarters in Shamshatoo village near Peshawar, he wondered what the Pakistani politicians hoped to achieve through their much-publicised visits to Afghanistan and meetings with helpless Kabul regime officials. He argued that these pointless visits were not only improperly timed but had also provided the beleaguered Soviets with a much-needed propaganda boost to drum-up their peaceful pretensions and in the process prolong their occupation of Afghanistan. He added that the misguided visits had also aroused misgivings about the motives of the Pakistani politicians and caused a breach in the Afghan policy of Pakistan whose territorial integrity too was threatened by Soviet expansionist designs and its occupation of Afghanistan.

Commenting on the failure of eighth round of Geneva talks on Afghanistan, Hikmatyar maintained that these negotiations would remain fruitless until the two real parties to the conflict i.e. Mujahideen and the Soviet Union were brought to the negotiation table. He remarked that it will be a proof of Soviet sincerity to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan if it agreed to talk directly to the Mujahideen. He felt the Geneva proximity talks were being

exploited by the Russians to dupe the world public opinion into accepting their yearnings for a peaceful political settlement of the Afghan issue.

Questioned whether he has been able to pre-empt the planned return of former King Zahir Shah, the Hezb-e-Islami chief claimed the Afghan 'jehad' had brought about profound changes in the political landscape of Afghanistan and had rendered people like Zahir Shah redundant.

Replying to a question about the unity of eight resistance groups in Iran, Hikmatyar felt it would not last long as the move was not discussed with him and other Mujahideen leaders. He said he was still campaigning for the implementation of his party's proposal which was earlier accepted by leaders of the seven-party alliance, Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen: elections be held for a 312-member Shura, including 52 from amongst refugees in Pakistan and Iran, to act as a legal body representing Afghans embracing all shades of opinion. He said this elected Shura, which will vindicate the democratic pretensions of the Afghan resistance and eliminate chances of an armed power struggle in the event of Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, could also serve as a basis for establishing a government-in-exile.

Hikmatyar denied that Hezb-e-Islami had received supplies of Stinger and Blowpipe missiles and also refuted allegations that certain resistance groups had diverted Stinger missiles to Iran for use in the Gulf war or in the 'tanker war' in Persian Gulf. He also termed as mere speculation reports in American press that the U.S. Government had decided to send

long-range mortars and mine-clearing equipment to Mujahideen by November this year. Claiming that the Mujahideen had overcome the air superiority hitherto enjoyed by the Soviets in Afghanistan, he said beginning with 50 enemy planes shot down in the first year of resistance the Mujahideen had progressively increased their score and the toll was 1200-1400 planes this year. He, however, refused to admit that far too many aircraft had been hit this year owing to the effective use of Stingers and Blowpipes by Mujahideen.

The Hezb-e-Islami leader talked at length about the Sept. 14 remote-control led car-bomb blast on Warsak Road in Peshawar which he claimed was aimed at killing him. He termed as improbable suggestions that the car-bomb was detonated by rival resistance groups to eliminate him or it was sponsored by him to regain his sagging popularity and win sympathies of the Afghan people. He said the car-bomb was apparently exploded by the KGB which was an obvious enemy owing to his armed struggle against Russian occupationist troops. He admitted that he had become a bit careless in his security measures but dismissed observations that Hezb-e-Islami might have been infiltrated in view of the precise nature and timing of the attack.

/13046

POLITICIANS ALLEGED INDIA THREATENING BANGLADESH

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Twenty political leaders who were once followers of Maulana Bhashani have called upon all 'patriots' to get united to thwart expansionist designs against independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh.

In a joint statement issued yesterday they said time had come for revival of the independence-loving forces of the country.

Referring to a recent remark of former Indian President Zail Singh that expeditious withdrawal of the Indian army from Bangladesh was a blunder they said that this had clearly reflected the expansionist motive of India about Bangladesh.

They said that 37,800 progressive political leaders and workers who had realized this truth during the 1972-75 period were killed by the Rakkhi Bahini which was an ally of the Indian army.

In this connection, they recalled that Maulana Bhashani said in 1972 that the nation had broken the shackles of Pindi and it would not accept Delhi's domination too.

"As we tried to voice the truth at that time we had to incur wrath of the then puppet government and were

subjected to ruthless oppression" they stated.

Pointing out the disputes between India and Bangladesh they said that India was already brandishing threats to turn "Bangladesh into a Sri Lanka" by using the tribal issue of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and today it was not difficult for anyone in Bangladesh to see through the objective underlying the so-called 25-year friendship treaty.

They described the present government as a servitor of the Indian rulers and called upon the people to launch an intensive movement against this "illegal" and "undemocratic" government.

Signatories to the statement included Mohammad Toaha of Samyabadi Dal, Oli Ahad of Democratic League, Shamsul Arefin Khan of UPP (Arefin), Miah Sadequr Rahman of UPP (Sadeq) Nurunnabi Chowdhury of Samyabadi Dal (Yakub), Nurul Huq Chowdhury of Ganatantrik Karmi Shibir, Gazi Shahidullah of NAP (Shahidullah), Garib Newaz of People's League (Newaz), Nur Mohammad Kazl of People's League and Motahas Ali Khan Majlish of NAP (Majlish).

/13104

CSO: 4600/023

BNP TERMS ERSHAD DIALOG INVITATION A HOAX

Dhaka THE NEW NATION In English 4 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will not participate in the dialogue with the leaders of different political parties convened by President Ershad on September 7 at Bangabhaban.

This decision was unanimously taken following a detailed discussion on the offer for talks at a meeting of the party Standing Committee chaired by BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia last night.

The meeting held in the residence of party Secretary General KM Obaidur Rahman continued till late night and the discussion on country's latest political and economic conditions and flood situation remained inconclusive.

In a statement issued following the meeting, the Party described the September 7 dialogue with political parties as nothing but a hoax and said there could not arise any question with regard to participation in any political dialogue or discussion with the present government.

BNP said the September 7 discussion had been convened with what it termed an ill-motive to shift the failure of the government to tackle current flood situation on the opposition political parties on the one hand and to earn confidence of the donors for getting their assistance on the other.

It said from the very beginning the opposition political parties were prevented from collecting and distributing relief

materials for the flood-hit people. Even the relief operations undertaken by the opposition political parties were subjected to adverse criticism by a couple of uninformed individuals the party said.

The statement said that the leaders and workers of different political parties including BNP had been arrested while warrant of arrest had been issued against many. The arrested leaders of five-party alliance are still under detention without trial. "In these circumstances, we feel the Government is not at all willing to unitedly tackle the flood situation", BNP said.

It said the Government should immediately resign in the interest of the nation and added that it was possible to save the country from the present crisis through formation of an elected government after a free and fair fresh parliamentary polls under the supervision of a non-party and neutral government.

BNP instructed its all workers and supporters to go ahead with the relief operations all over the affected areas and urged all political parties, alliances, groupings and individuals also to properly implement the programmes already announced for replacement of the government. It also called for taking preparation to make the Dhaka seige programme announced by the seven-party alliance for October 7 a success.

/13104

CSO: 4600/022

PLANS TO ESTABLISH GAMMA IRRADIATION PLANTS TOLD

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

A joint venture company has been formed in the country for establishing multi-purpose gamma irradiation plants and carrying out sterilisation, irradiation, processing and preservation of food, medical, agricultural and other products, official sources told BSS yesterday.

The company—'Gammatech Limited'—has been formed by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and Bangladesh Export-Import Company (BEXIMCO) with an authorised capital of Tk 10 crore and a paid up capital of Tk five lakh.

The BAEC owns 51 per cent of the share capital while the BEXIMCO owns 49 per cent.

The company has seven directors four from the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and three from BEXIMCO.

The chairman of the company shall be appointed from the directors representing BAEC. Dr Anwar Hossain, Chairman, BAEC, has been made the first chairman of the company.

Gammatech plans to set up five irradiation plants in the country within the next five years to be located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rangpur, the sources said.

Preliminary preparations for establishing the country's first irradiation plant in Chittagong is complete and negotiations with foreign investors for the two irradiation plants in Dhaka are in progress.

Purchase of the cobalt 60 irradiator for the Chittagong plant costing one million U.S. dollar will be financed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under its technical assistance programme to BAEC. The total cost to establish the plant will be about Taka four and a half crore. The cobalt 60 irradiator will be purchased from the Soviet Union. It is likely to be shipped within the next three months and reach Dhaka by January next. The plant will be commissioned by the end of 1988.

The plant will process mainly exportable food items including fish, shrimps, froglegs, fish products and bye-products, vegetables and agricultural products for preservation, sterilisation and decontamination by radiation treatment.

One of the proposed irradiation plants in Dhaka is expected to be exclusively used for sterilisation of medical products and kits including those used in family planning programmes.

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CSO: 4600/022

CHAKMA ON NEED TO RECOGNIZE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Chakma Raja Debasish Roy has stressed the need for constitutional recognition of the Chittagong Hill Tracts manual after discussion with the tribal leaders.

Addressing a conference of the headmen of Rangamati district at the auditorium of the local municipality yesterday, he said it was not possible to conduct administrative affairs properly in the district under any political arrangement without participation of the headmen.

Focussing on the declining role of the headmen he said the present critical situation in the district was partially responsible for it.

He said the headmen were serving as revenue collectors on the one hand and on the other, performing judicial and administrative functions in the mouzas. Their ideals were to remain loyal to the government abide by the orders of the government administration and think about public interests.

He made some important suggestions to the government regarding the judicial system of the hill districts, tribal marriage law, wages for the tribal people, fixation of quota for them in the BCS cadres and employment opportunities for them.

The Chakma Raja also demanded eliciting of the opinion of the local people on the development programmes for the hill districts.

/13104
CSO: 4600/025

RELIGIOUS LEADER DENIES LINK WITH POLITICS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 87 pp 1, 10

[Text]

Pir Shaheb of Atrashi, Faridpur, who has millions of followers in the country, has denied having any connection with any political party or hold any political belief.

Addressing a Press conference on Thursday by Mr. Mostafa Amir Faisal, son of Pir Shaheb, on behalf of the Bisaw Jaker Manjil, the institution of the Pir Shaheb of Atrashi dispelled the misgivings which has been created following the statement of Jatiya Party Secretary General in public meetings recently. He said that the Secretary General of ruling party had involved the Biswa Zaker Manjil with the political belief of Jatiya Party and gave an impression that the philosophy and political belief of the leaders of ruling party were identical with that of Biswa Zaker Manjil.

Reading out a written statement of the Pir Shaheb of Atrashi, his son Mr. Mostafa Amir Faisal clearly stated that Biswa Zaker Manjil of Atrashi was above any politics or political belief and working as spiritual platform to establish justice and welfare of the people.

He said, many important leaders of different political parties, including the ruling party, are the followers of Pir Shaheb and often visit the Biswa Zaker Manjil. The millions of followers of Pir Shaheb might have their individual political belief. But their belief and political identities did not reflect the views of the Biswa Zaker Manjil or Pir Shaheb.

Ruling out any possibility of any political motive, he said that the

Biswa Zaker Manjil would continue to serve the people from its spiritual platform. He, however said that Biswa Zaker Manjil would not hesitate to resist or face any calamity which might befall Islam.

Critical of AL

He said that the Pir Shaheb was also critical of Bangladesh Awami League for discarding Islam from its party manifesto and insertion of secularism in the party principles. He urged the Bangladesh Awami League to insert Islam replacing secularism in the party manifesto. He said that since establishment of Bangladesh Awami League, it had always talked of Islamic way of life. He regretted that the Bangladesh Awami League trade Islam with secularism in 1971 to obtain recognition of India for independent Bangladesh.

Replying to a question, the son of Pir Shaheb who was authorised for the Press conference said that Biswa Zaker Manjil demanded scrapping of the 25 year treaty between Bangladesh and India. He said that India imposed secularism in Bangladesh through this agreement.

He said Biswa Zaker Manjil has four basic principles. These are, establishment of Islam in state life on the basis of national consensus, support to fundamental and democratic rights of the people, refrain people from vices, resist moral degradation through the teaching of spiritual education and motivation of people for greater national interest.

/13104

CSO: 4600/026

AWAMI LEAGUE CHIEF OPPOSES LEASING HARIPUR OILFIELD

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Opposition leader in [redacted] and Awami League, Sheikh Hasina has alleged that the Government is planning to enter into "a secret deal" with a foreign company for leasing out Haripur oilfield.

She told a press conference at the party central office yesterday that there was no precedence of leasing out any oilfield that was discovered by the local experts of a country. Such an accord could be reached only at the survey and exploration stages, she said.

Sheikh Hasina described the agreement as a conspiracy against the interest of the nation and called upon the people to resist this move of the Government. She claimed that the decision to lease out Haripur oilfield was taken during the last session of parliament and the President approved it in July.

The Awami League chief said, 'Semeter', a Canadian company, had agreed to spend only ten million dollars which was equivalent to Tk 33 crore for further development of Haripur oilfield whereas this amount could easily be taken as loan from any nationalised commercial bank of the country.

Moreover, Sheikh Hasina said, so far as lifting of oil was concerned Semeter was an inexperienced company having no reputation in this field. This company has so far only built a gas processing plant in Dubai, in 1977. She said by investing an amount of Tk 33 crore Semeter would take a share of oil worth about Tk 550 crore.

In fact, she said, the national wealth was being handed over to a foreign company for personal and group interest. She said a conspiracy was underway to lease out the entire country. Sheikh Hasina said a "special mafia group" getting assistance from the highest level of the Government was now active in different multi-million dollar projects in the country.

Sheikh Hasina said while the people were vocal against leasing out of the oilfield, Energy Minister was making misleading statement saying that the Well Number 7 of Haripur would not be leased out. She said by digging wells at nearby places, oil could easily be pumped out from the specific well where it had already been discovered. Besides, she said, there were no terms and conditions in the accord that Well Number 7 would belong to us.

She said the decision to lease out Haripur oilfield once again proved that the government was trying to cripple the economy of the country. Sheikh Hasina asked the Government not to implement the accord saying that the people would resist it with the last drop of their blood.

Replying to a question, the Awami League chief said they had not yet taken any decision to defer the Dhaka seige programme scheduled for October 7. She said they were now going ahead with their mass contact programme which according to her, was part

of the movement. She reiterated that the movement would continue until the democratic rights of the people were restored.

When her attention was drawn to a proposal made by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Mr A.S.M. Abdur Rab for proclamation of emergency, she said there was no such situation in the country which warranted an emergency to be declared. She mentioned in this connection that what was needed to tackle the flood situation at this hour was the sincerity of the government, not emergency.

Sheikh Hasina claimed that as per reports so far received by them from various sources a number of people had died of starvation in different flood hit areas. Asked if a famine situation was prevailing in the country on the basis of her own statement, she said, certainly. In reply to another question she said they were putting in their best to overcome the situation.

On the postponement of the proposed dialogue the Awami League chief said it was a failure of the government. The government was forced to postpone the dialogue because it was not enjoying confidence of the people. She described the offer for talks as a "hoax" and said Awami League had rejected it much earlier.

National Awami Party leader Mr Suranjit Sengupta also replied to queries from newsmen. Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Sajeda Chowdhury, Syed Ahmad of Baksal and other leaders of the Eight-party Alliance were also present at the press conference.

/13104

CSO: 4600/023

REPORTER GIVES STATISTICS ON FLOOD DAMAGE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Sep 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] The unprecedented floods engulfing a total of 19,785 square miles under 50 districts and 347 upazilas of the country took a record toll both in terms of lives and property.

According to the latest official estimate, the longest ever floods that began around mid-July have so far claimed 603 lives and affected about twenty-five million people.

The Government has confirmed death of 150 people in diarrhoeal diseases that have attacked 1,79,549 people so far in various affected areas. The death toll from diarrhoea will go up further with the pouring in of more reports from the remote areas.

The central control room opened by the Health Ministry could not get information from the far flung areas due to disruption of telecommunication. Control room sources told New Nation last night that they had not yet gathered informations from Kishoreganj, Jamalpur, Netrokona, Nilphamari, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Joypurhat.

The maximum number of 14 persons each are reported to have died of diarrhoea in Dinajpur and Gaibandha districts under Rajshahi divisions. In Dindipur, a total of 19,517 people are said to have been attacked by diarrhoea and 16,357 in Gaibandha. The unofficial sources, however, claimed that the death toll from diarrhoea and other water borne diseases would be much higher.

According to official figures available with the central flood relief activities and monitoring cell at the President's Secretariat, a total of 9,19,737 houses have been damaged fully in the flood and another 10,39,632 houses partially.

The preliminary estimate also showed that the devastating

floods had damaged crops on 25,41,338 acres completely and that on another 18,41,230 acres partially. The surging water and the strong current also damaged 1,227 culverts and bridges. The floods also damaged 16,571 Kilometers kutchha and 1,523 kilometers pucca roads in the country.

Meanwhile, the Government has so far allocated and distributed Taka 2,27,39,250 in various flood affected areas of the country. It also sanctioned 11,75,489 maunds of rice, wheat for distribution among the flood victims. The Government has also distributed, among other things, 2,06,339 pieces of sari, 54,620 pieces of lungee and 2,18,374 pieces of new and old clothes.

BSS adds: The overall flood situation of the country has marked considerable improvement with the fast recession of water from all the affected districts, according to Flood Control Rooms of the concerned districts.

But Sunamgonj, Sylhet, Lalmatia, Chittagong, Noakhali and Pabna had experienced rainfall ranging 15.0 MM to 127.0 MM during the last 24 hours, says a flood forecasting and warning department press release. Although waters are receding quickly it is learnt that the river Ganges, Mahananda and Teesta are still flowing at 3 cm 28 cm and 15 cm respectively above danger levels at Hardinge Bridge, Chapal-Nawabganj and Kaunia points. The Teesta at Dalia and Kaunia, the Ganges at Rajshahi and Brahmaputra at all points have recorded a slight rise. All other rivers started receding.

According to flood control rooms of Feni, Noakhali, Comilla and Chandpur all rivers of the Meghna basin have receded and are flowing below danger levels. The Matamuhuri at Lalmatia recorded a slight rise during the last 24 hours but is flowing below danger level.

BRIEFS

INDIAN TRAWLER SEIZED--Morrelganj police seized an Indian fishing trawler Sreema Mahashakhti and arrested eight fishermen recently on charge of illegal intrusion in the territorial water of Bangladesh, according to a delayed report received here. The trawler entered Bangladesh waters and anchored at Char Kukri Mukri. On information of the chairman of Khawlia union under Morrelganj upazila took the fishermen to police. They were arrested and later sent to Bagerhat jail hajat. Police seized the trawler. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Sep 87 p 1] /13104

CSO: 4600/0024

ARTICLE REPORTS ON IRI'S ALLEGED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

46400179 London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 87 p 11

[Text] At a beautiful 20,000-square-meter garden and building complex in Kunshe on the fringes of Geneva near the French border, a funny scenario appeared, the product of the war of embassies between Iran and France: The expulsion of Mohsen Aminzadeh, the Iranian diplomat who was detained by customs officials at Cointrinv international airport in Geneva.

The property that is used for the plots of Khomeyni's henchmen was purchased for 2 million Swiss francs in 1953 by the shah's government in order to build the Iranian Embassy. Until 1975 this complex was used by the imperial government's delegation at the European center for the United Nations. Today, however, its two-story building was not only turned into a Soviet-style dormitory for diplomats, but it is used as a center for the activities of the Islamic republic's secret spying and sabotage organizations in Europe.

Although there is a spy organization in Iran because of the number of groups fighting over who will succeed Khomeyni, the regime also has formed various secret service groups together under the acronym VAVAK.

The term VAVAK is an acronym formed with the words for Ministry of Intelligence (Vezarat-e Ettela'at va Amniyyat'e Keshvar). This organization is administered under the direct supervision and control of Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, minister of intelligence and the son-in-law of Ayatollah Meshkini "who has the nation's Islamic schools under his supervision." This "minister's" responsibilities include the buying and selling of arms, maintaining ties with Hezbollah supporters, as well as administering Evin Prison in north Tehran.

According to the Italian journalist Alberto Mariantoni, who lives in Lausanne, agents of the Ministry of Intelligence are important pawns in a larger organization with 8,000 members worldwide and a budget of \$19 million. This group's activities are coordinated by the Iranian United Nations delegation in Geneva, whose center happens to be in the same building housing the Iraqi delegation. This location is at 28 Schumann DePuti Fakune, between the Intercontinental Hotel and the Palace of Nations.

This delegation has been administered since 1983 by the regime's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Kamyab Kazemi. Four other diplomats are also members

of the delegation, including Mostafa Sadeqi Mibadi, nominally the third secretary but considered responsible for the European VAVAK network, and Gholamreza Haddadi, charge d'affaires for the Islamic republic's embassy in Paris and a close associate of Ayatollah Montazeri, who also works under Mibadi.

In Geneva the chief of the Morteza Tale' group is consul for the Islamic republic's embassy. His office is at 24 Chapel Street (near the municipal hospital) and his home is at 62 Rue de Flouresan. Tale's home has political immunity.

All the officials and agents of Khomeyni's secret network are assembled at a home at 24 Velour Street. The regime's UN representative has an apartment on the same floor. On the second floor they have established a 50-bed dormitory, along with rooms furnished with separate washrooms and toilets for high-ranking guests. They have constructed a 400-seat hall for this group's propaganda meetings. Its administrative meetings are held at other locations such as the Intercontinental Hotel (where in early June 40 Hezbollah members, Majlis deputies and ministers assembled there), at villas on Lake Leman between Geneva and Nyon, or at a villa in Montreux built in 1981 by a reliable individual under the shah named Zara'i, who now works with Khomeyni and whose son has a Swiss passport and does purchasing for Ahmad Khomeyni.

A French merchant named (Francois Geneaux), who was close to the leaders of Nazi Germany and later made his specialty available too the Palestinian networks, now helps the Khomeyni regime with its terrorist activities by spending the profits from the sale of smuggled arms to Khomeyni's supporters. With authorization from the Central Bank of Iran and with the mediation of an affiliate of the late shah of Iran named Mahavi, he founded a company in Geneva called the M. Group and signed contracts with the Italian Sistel and Otomolar Company, the Bofors company of Sweden, the Vikarz Company of Holland, and the Swiss Oerlikon-Bührle Company in Zurich. Enormous amounts of money from the accounts of the Pak Daru financial institution in Frankfurt have been deposited in the government of the Islamic republic's account, which are used to fund Khomeyni's networks.

The commissions and markups of 12.5 percent from this company's transactions have been deposited in special Swiss bank accounts. These accounts are held by 'Ali Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, Velayati, Ahmad Khomeyni, and other affiliates of the "Imam," as well as by Sadeq Tabataba'i.

Sadeq Tabataba'i has been sought since last spring on charges of suspicious and illegal financial activities in Switzerland. His name has been mentioned in connection with an episode in which apparently three Swiss arms smugglers cheated the Iranian Government out of 90 million Swiss francs in a fraudulent transaction for the sale of tanks in 1981. This money was paid from an account at the Global Bank in the German city of Dusseldorf. Before fleeing from Germany as an opium smuggler, Sadeq Tabataba'i lived in that city for 17 years. Tabataba'i is also an arms purchasing agent for the Islamic republic. This "very special" diplomat recently altered and forged documents for the

purchase and shipment of 50 tanks that were to have been delivered to Dubay so that they would be sent to Iran. Judicial authorities and prosecutors in Zurich believe that Tabataba'i not only is not the victim of the 90-million-dollar tank smuggling affair, but that with the help of the famous arms smuggler ("Walter G."), he has made profits for himself by laundering huge sums of money.

Tale', the Islamic republic's consul in Switzerland and nephew of a cleric named Hasani, the governor-general of a district in northern Iran, supports Tabataba'i. Before the revolution Tale' was a dealer in stolen construction materials, and he was selected from a group of common prisoners to serve the ayatollah's regime.

He owes his advancement to Lajevardi, former warden of Evin Prison, now Deputy Minister of Information for operations abroad in Europe and America. Tale's role in orchestrating the recent affair at Geneva airport has come to light. It was Tale' who met Vahid Gorji, an interpreter for the Iranian Embassy in France who had secretly come to the Kunshe complex to meet his chief, on July 2. Gorji then turned up suspiciously at the Islamic republic's embassy in France. Seven days earlier Tale' had met Mohsen Aminzadeh in Geneva. Aminzadeh was recognized as a diplomat by the French Foreign Ministry last January, and card number 7296 was issued in his name. This bearded young man of 28 years, who has a political passport, also comes from Evin Prison. After the establishment of the Islamic republic he was placed in charge of flogging at that prison. Another of his specialties is making Molotov cocktails. Aminzadeh spent his childhood and his youth selling cigarettes in front of movie houses. He was trained by the "guidance" group as a telex specialist, then VAVAK sent him to the Paris embassy as a diplomat to serve as courier between Paris and the Iranian delegation's headquarters in Switzerland. His continuous movements back and forth led the French border police to suspect him early in the Vahid Gorji affair. For this reason, when he reported to the French section of Geneva airport on the afternoon of 11 July to board an aircraft to Paris, two French customs agents asked him to open his hand bag--which was not at all eligible for diplomatic pouch immunity. Aminzadeh immediately decided to return. However, the customs agents did not allow him to give a sealed packet to his driver, who was waiting behind the customs booth. When Aminzadeh realized that the agents were going to take the other five packets, which contained copies of documents burned in Paris "at the beginning of the Gorji episode," and decoding books, he had a fit. He fell on the floor, beat his head hard against it, and began writhing and swearing. After slapping Aminzadeh a few times to calm him down, the customs officers returned his documents to him. Of course, before doing so the police had carefully photocopied the documents. They then turned him over to the airport clinic, and Aminzadeh was taken by ambulance to the emergency room in Cantonal Hospital in Geneva. After a series of tests and x-rays, Dr Unger, the chief of the emergency room, found only a small bruise on his forehead.

During this period the patient had telephoned outside from his room. The next day about noon they turned him over to Tale' for return to the Kunshe complex.

Late in the evening they brought Aminzadeh back to the hospital by ambulance, saying that his condition had become much more critical. Dr Unger, because of the agitated atmosphere that had developed, agreed to see him again the next day, but he said that the issue was more political than medical!

During this time Tale' contacted Hoseyn Malek, the Islamic republic's ambassador in Bern, and Ali Ahani, general manager of the Iranian Foreign Ministry. He told them that Aminzadeh had been injured by four French policemen and was in a coma in the hospital. His left foot and his head and eyes had been injured and he could not move them! At 11:30 at night they removed Aminzadeh from the hospital through a secret door and took him to a private clinic called Ture in the little city of Meyrin near the airport. Tale' then accused the French police of stealing very important secret documents belonging to the Iranian Government. For the next 36 hours Aminzadeh pretended to be in the throes of death in the new clinic and would not eat or answer questions from the physicians. "Of course, they saw that he could walk to the toilet on his own." Tale' then created a noisy scene: with his family surrounding him and a large number of journalists and photographers present, he sent him to Tehran on a stretcher. The physicians watching this scene were quite angry, because they knew that Aminzadeh could easily have left the hospital on his own two feet and that not the slightest symptom of loss of consciousness or other problem had been found.

Had Aminzadeh feigned unconsciousness and weakness fearing punishment because the important documents he was carrying had fallen into the hands of the French police? In answer to this, the Iranian consul says with a smile: He did not commit any crime, nor do the stolen documents have anything to do with the Vahid Gorji affair.

9310/06662

EIGHT IRI OFFICIALS IDENTIFIED AS RIOT INSTIGATORS

46400181 London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 87 pp 1, 15

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The English daily SAUDI GAZETTE of Jeddah has introduced the ringleaders of the bloody demonstrations of the Iranians in Mecca accompanied by their pictures. In its special edition of Friday August 7, the SAUDI GAZETTE has assigned over four pages of that issue to describing the photographs and other video-recorded scenes from the various stages of confrontation between the Iranian pilgrims and the Saudi Arabian police. Among these pictures the faces of at least eight prominent political-religious leaders of the Islamic Republic, as the ringleaders of the demonstrators stand out. The following individuals are clearly introduced most recognizably:

- 1- Fakhr-eddin-e Hejazi
- 2- Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtada'i, spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council.
- 3- Abdolkarim Soroush
- 4- Hoseyn Lajvardi from the Ministry of Guards Corps.
- 5- Mohsen Reza'i Etemadi, commander of the Guards Corps.
- 6- One of the responsible officials of the Ministry of the Islamic Guidance.
- 7- Brigadier general Sayad Shirazi.
- 8- Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq Nuri, former interior minister.

The bloody confrontation of Mecca resulted in the death of 275 Iranians, 85 Saudi Arabian nationals and 42 people of other nationalities. The news agencies of the world have put the number of wounded at 646. The SUNDAY TIMES [weekly magazine] with regard to the incidents of Mecca wrote: There is every indication that the harsh and brusque demonstrations in the House of God by the Iranian pilgrims were all precisely pre-planned; however, as a result of the severity and roughness of the participants in the demonstrations, the Saudi police showed far harsher reaction than was expected.

The above-stated weekly goes on to add: The demonstrations which resulted in the death and injury of about 1,000 pilgrims to the House of God, had been duly planned and programmed by the Iranians many weeks in advance. The final review of the method of execution of the program for the demonstrations was carried out by the ringleaders in a house in Medina, one week before the day of demonstration, and it was during that session when the details of the plan was scrutinized by the participants and duly approved by the responsible agents and other officials who took part in that meeting.

At the meeting in Medina, brigadier general Sayad Shirazi, member of the Supreme Defence Council of the Islamic Republic, Mehdi Karubi, supervisor of Haj [pilgrimage] operations, and Mohammad Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone of the Islamic Republic were present. In addition to the abovementioned individuals, 20 representatives of the Islamic Consultative Assembly were also present at the Medina meeting.

According to the plan which was agreed upon in the aforementioned session, it had been so arranged that a large portion of the 150,000 Iranian pilgrims control the entrance doors to the Great Mosque in Mecca and post Khomeyni's pictures on the doors. Likewise, it had been arranged for the demonstrators to distribute leaflets in which the United States, the Soviet Union and Iraqi regime had been verbally attacked. The main responsibility for the execution of these operations was assigned to about 20,000 members of the Islamic Guards Corps who had travelled to Mecca as pilgrims.

Apparently, the Guards Corps members and other Iranian demonstrators had been instructed not to carry fire arms, however in case they were obstructed or resisted by anybody they were allowed to retaliate the way they saw fit.

Here it should be mentioned that the pilgrims to the House of God are usually allowed to carry a knife with them in order to be used in the execution of certain religious precepts.

Three days before the incident of Mecca, Ayatollah Khomeyni in a message to the pilgrims said: Clearance from religious obligation is not confined to the period and/or ceremonies related to the Haj pilgrimage alone. The Muslims ought to fill the entire world with the love and affection to the essence of God and permeate hatred and grudge against the enemies of God and they should not listen to the temptations of the devilish rogues, the deviated and the doubters.

In another part of his message to the pilgrims, Ayatollah Khomeyni stated: Clearance from religious obligation toward the pagans which is one of the pillars of monotheism and a political requirement of the Haj, ought, during the period of pilgrimage be manifested in the form of a grave march and dignified demonstrations. And all the respectable Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims should, with utmost concordance and unanimity towards the responsible officials of the Haj and my representative Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karubi, participate in all the pertinent ceremonies. They ought to cause the shouts of: Deliverance from the atheists and pagans of the world arrogance--with the criminal United States being at their head, be heard and reverberated beside the House of God and they ought not try to hide or conceal their hatred and grudge toward the enemies of God and the people.

The text of Ayatollah Khomeyni's message was broadcast several times in the houses of the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca. Furthermore, during the beginning of the demonstrations the text of the message was also broadcast through powerful

loudspeakers for all the Iranian pilgrims.

SUNDAY TIMES magazine goes on to write: On Thursday eight Iranians were arrested by the Saudi security officials near the Great Mosque. Following this incident, hundreds of Iranian pilgrims staged demonstrations in order to secure the release of these eight individuals. Despite the fact that the arrested Iranians were released, yet the atmosphere of Mecca was replete with anxiety, disquietude and harshness. At 12:40, on Friday after the completion of the mid-day prayers, about 15,000 to 20,000 Iranians began a demonstration while carrying portraits of Ayatollah Khomeyni and other placards. At about four o'clock, the Iranian pilgrims blocked the entrance to the Great Mosque. A Malaysian national who was driving a car at the time, said: A number of demonstrators stopped my car in order to give me a hand-bill. When I refused receiving the hand-bill they pulled me out of the car, beat me up and set my car on fire.

Some of the demonstrators were carrying knives and some were armed with chains, wires and other similar cold arms. The demonstrators while shouting slogans, announced that they were intending to enter the Great Mosque. At this time a heated dispute was developed between the Iranian pilgrims and other nationals. The wife of Ayatollah Khomeyni who was also among the demonstrators was wounded during these demonstrations and before being taken to the Islamic Republic Embassy in Mecca she was transferred to a hospital. At this time a confrontation began between the Saudi security police and the demonstrators and the battle reached its height in a few moments. Many of the demonstrators lost their lives as a result of a human stampede.

SUNDAY TIMES magazine while quoting Heib Jaber, a pilgrim from Karachi, wrote: About 200 Iranian pilgrims, with their knives drawn, attacked whomever who decided to stop their demonstration.

The demonstrations in Mecca caused a wave of terror and anxiety throughout the city. The majority of the dead were consisted of women who were stomped during this melee as a result of their weakness or oldness.

The bloody incident of Mecca received an extensive coverage by the press and other mass media of the world. GUARDIAN [of London] correspondent while relating an interview with the Egyptian pilgrims to the House of God, who had returned to Cairo, wrote: What has been said by the Egyptian pilgrims about the incident of Mecca substantiates the fact that the Iranian pilgrims had made precise plans and programs before the staging of the demonstrations.

12719

IRAN

SOUTH ASIA

IRI, SOUTH AFRICA SAID TO MAINTAIN SECRET TRADE

46400173a London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Aug 87 p 8

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The research office of the Dutch Shipping Organization is currently studying eight instances of alleged oil exports from Iran to South Africa. The exports allegedly occurred between 1979 and 1985. In recent years the Islamic republic has been accused by several different authorities of selling oil to the racist regime of South Africa in order to obtain weapons and war materiel.

Economic experts believe that if the accusations are proved, it will be a severe blow to the prestige of the Islamic republic internationally, especially among African nations.

In the last few years several of the world's media have made prominent and obscure reference to secret political, economic, and commercial relations between the Islamic republic and South Africa. In some cases they have claimed that these relations have expanded since the days before the Islamic revolution. Iran is currently a stockholder in one of South Africa's refineries.

These stocks were purchased prior to the Islamic revolution, and the National Iranian Oil Company was obligated to export to South Africa the oil needed by this refinery. Currently there is no information on the fate of these stocks, and officials of the Islamic republic strive to prevent any information in this matter from reaching the media. Early this year the London weekly journal OBSERVER wrote that the Islamic republic is buying uranium from Namibia through a private company based in London. In late 1985 the Austrian press--especially the monthly journal VOEST--revealed that the Intertrading Company, the commercial branch of the Austrian Alpine group, is exporting the Islamic republic's oil to South Africa. The Intertrading Company, which was effectively dissolved after the disclosure of secrets pertaining to bribe-taking and its poor financial condition, was required to export various goods, including weapons and war equipment, to the Islamic republic in exchange for oil.

9310/06662

IRI, USSR DEVELOP CLOSER TIES, COOPERATION

46400176 London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 87 pp 1, 4

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Based on the reports by the International News Service of the BBC Radio, last Friday [August 8], Tehran Radio announced that toward the end of the current month a delegation from the Soviet Union will visit Tehran and will conduct negotiations with regard to the transfer of Iranian oil through the Soviet territory to the Black Sea.

The transfer of Iranian oil will be carried out through a pipeline which was constructed during the reign of the late shah, from the south to the north of Iran, for the purpose of selling gas to the Soviet Union. Now, after the signing of an agreement, Soviet experts plan to run oil in these pipelines after certain necessary modifications. If this becomes a reality, 300,000 barrels of Iranian oil will reach the Black Sea daily and from there by way of the Mediterranean Sea it can be sold to the European countries or most probably to other East European countries as well. It seems that one of the conditions for the transfer of Iranian oil to the Black Sea is primarily meeting the needs of the Eastern Bloc countries of Europe.

However, before Radio Tehran and BBC of London broadcast the news, Soviet Union had announced its readiness to help the Islamic Republic by transferring the Iranian crude oil by way of the Caspian Sea to the Soviet Union and from there, either through pipelines or oil tankers transfer the oil to other world markets. In order to make this a reality, the Islamic Republic ought to transfer its crude oil production from Khuzestan region by way of pipelines to the shores of the Caspian Sea, thereby the Soviet oil tankers could transfer this crude to the coasts of the Caspian Sea within the Soviet territory and from there it could find its way to world markets.

Transfer of Iranian Oil by Way of the Soviet Union to Europe

Toward the end of last week, Gonadi Gerasimov, spokesman for the Soviet Union's foreign ministry in an interview with the correspondents and other mass media representatives of the world stated: The transfer of Iranian oil through the Caspian Sea to the world markets comprise one of the major economic cooperation projects between the two countries about which the responsible economic officials of both nations are conducting negotiations.

The above-stated news was announced by the spokesman of the Soviet Union Foreign Ministry simultaneously with the visit of Yuli Verentsov, deputy foreign minister to Tehran and after the completion of negotiations with the authorities of the Islamic Republic. Gerasimov told the journalists: In addition to the talks regarding the transfer of Iranian crude oil to the shores of the Caspian Sea, the economic authorities of Tehran and Moscow are continuing their negotiations concerning the re-opening of the natural gas line of Iran to the Soviet Union--which for some time now has been shut--this gas line was closed by the Islamic Republic, and apparently its re-opening, after securing proper agreement, would need execution of fundamental repairs at the Iranian side of the gas line.

TASS News Agency regarding the expansion of economic relations between Tehran and Moscow reported that Yuli Verentsov in his recent visit to Tehran emphasized the need of the both countries to expanding of their economic relations more than ever before.

Soviet affairs experts believe that during the last few months Tehran has been diligently active to achieve certain agreements with Moscow, with regard to the amelioration of its politico-economic relations, regardless of the cost. Apparently, the recent crisis of the Persian Gulf and an increase of the military presence by the United States in the waters of that region has produced proper excuse for the Iranian officials to seek closer ties with Moscow, so much so that the deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union has visited Tehran twice in a period of less than six weeks.

Sources close to Kremlin disclosed that during the second half of the current year Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign secretary of the Soviet Union will also make a trip to Tehran to meet with the officials of the Islamic Republic.

Best Occasion for Getting Closer to Tehran

Political experts believe that although the Soviet Union is one of the major suppliers of weapons needed by Iraq for its war against the Islamic Republic, yet considering the prevailing political situation, the Kremlin officials regard the present critical conditions of the Persian Gulf as the best opportunity for getting closer to Tehran and availing themselves of the rife circumstances to the fullest extent.

With regard to the expansion of economic relations between Moscow and Tehran, TASS News Agency--without getting into details--pointed to some major and substantial economic projects. IRNA, with regard to the same news also announced that the following issues were discussed with the deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union: The construction of a pipeline for the transfer of oil, execution of the power generation projects, execution of steel production project, expansion of activities in the area of steel works and the execution of oil refining programs which were all given top priority. The above-stated news agency further added: In addition to the exchange of opinion regarding the aforesaid projects, the economic experts of both countries also discussed the execution of

mutual projects in the area of shipping in the Caspian Sea and the linking of the Iranian railway to that of the Soviet Union's to a point other than the present Jolfa railway connection.

Halapick, political editor of GUARDIAN [of London] regarding the turn of events in the relation between Tehran and Moscow wrote: Both the Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic have condemned the military presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf and they've asked that country to withdraw its warships from the Gulf in order to bring an end to the prevailing crisis in the region.

The Important Role of Verentsov

The above-stated newspaper further added: The Soviet Union is the only country which can take on a fundamental and major role in the execution of negotiations for bringing an end to the hostilities between Tehran and Baghdad. The first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union during his visit to Tehran and Baghdad made every effort to persuade the leaders of both countries to accept the UN resolution for a cease-fire.

The political observers and analysts of the Middle East situation believe that, on the one hand the Soviet Union is trying to win the attention of Hafiz Assad in order to bring about a reconciliation between Damascus and Baghdad, and on the other it is trying to persuade the Syrian president to play a role in rectifying the conditions for a peace agreement between the two warring nations.

The government of Iraq has shown a conditional, yet positive reaction towards the UN Security Council's Resolution 598. So far that country has at least temporarily stopped its air attacks on the oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. In contrast, the Islamic Republic has called the aforementioned resolution as inadequate and not acceptable.

General Vernon Walters, the United States representative at the UN is now trying to seek the issuing of a more complete resolution by the Security Council for imposing a mandatory embargo of arms sale to the two countries in question. In the Resolution 598 of the UN Security Council it has been stated: If one or the two warring countries refuse to accept the cease-fire, the UN Security Council through the issuance of another resolution should ban the sale of arms to the one or both countries, as the case might be.

Unanimity for Expelling the United States from the Persian Gulf

The political observers of the Middle East also point out that at present Moscow has begun to play a very sensitive role in the critical theatre of the Persian Gulf. While that country has supported the UN resolution, in the prevailing critical situation it has also supported the stance of the Islamic Republic with regard to the withdrawal of the United States forces from the Persian Gulf. Gonadi Gerasimov, spokesman for the Soviet Union's Foreign Ministry told reporters:

The Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic are of the opinion that the present critical situation in the Persian Gulf is the result of the military presence of the United States in the Gulf and there is no difference of opinion about this matter between the two countries of Iran and the USSR.

Gerasimov went on to emphasize that the efforts of Yuli Verontsov for encouraging the leaders of the Islamic Republic to accept the resolution of the Security Council, with regard to Tehran's stance, has not been very effective.

It is interesting to know that the Soviet Union, with regard to the incidents in Mecca, supported the position of the Saudi Arabia and blamed the Islamic Republic for the creation of unrest.

Shortcut for the Transfer of Oil Through the Soviet Union

The subject of oil transfer instead of gas was primarily discussed by Qolam Reza Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic in a hurried trip to Moscow last year. At the same time it was also announced that the concession for the discovery and exploitation of oil in the northern area of the country has been awarded to the Soviet Union through a confidential agreement--this matter caused many buzz sessions in the western circles.

A while ago, during his trip to Moscow, Ali Akbar Velayati also discussed the subject of oil transfer and at that time we predicted that the issue of oil transfer through the Soviet territory to Europe has entered a more serious phase and soon a delegation of Soviet experts will go to Tehran.

A brief study of all these transformations reveal the fact that the Islamic Republic has come to know that it does not have the power to control the Persian Gulf. On the one hand, Kharg island is within easy reach of Iraqi warplanes and in order to get out of the reach of Iraqi planes, the Islamic Republic moved its facilities to Larak island, but on the other hand the Iraqis after obtaining more advanced planes they also reached Larak too; furthermore, the presence of constant gales and rough seas has caused great difficulties for loading the tankers at Larak. As a result of the two aforementioned reasons, the Islamic Republic decided to incline toward the East and chose Sirri island. It combined a few super-tankers in an effort to transfer the oil from Kharg to Sirri island on a regular basis. The oil tankers of this newly devised service line which escaped the air attacks of Iraqi warplanes would unload their cargo of oil in floating resevoirs and thereafter all the prospective clients would get their oil from there. However the Iraqi warplanes employed aerial refueling to reach Sirri or as some people say they even used some other airports of the Persian Gulf states on their way from the Sirri island mission to refuel.

Now, not only the oil installations of Iran in the Persian Gulf are within easy reach of Iraqi planes, but there is also the issue of the United States naval fleet and those of the Great Britain and France which complicate the problem and

in case there is a need to take any action against the Iranian oil tankers, this huge collection of naval vessels could easily block the way to any and all Iranian tankers. In that case there is a possibility that the Islamic Republic would seriously want to engage in a war in the Persian Gulf and thus it ought to foresee a future source of revenue through its oil transfer to the Black Sea.

At present, the Islamic Republic does not have either the money to construct a new pipeline along the existing gas line nor does it have the opportunity to do so. For this reason it has decided to convert the existing gas line into oil pipelines--through certain modifications, taking into consideration the fact that this line has been left unused for some time now.

Another possibility is that that this conversion might never take place, since following the centuries-old political policy of Iran, the Mullahs have been trying to use Soviet Union as a scarecrow to ward off the United States. It is obvious that the Soviet admission into the oil market and industry of Iran would cause consternation to the western nations, since through this means the Soviets would be able to gain complete control of a major artery of Iran.

A Very Significant Issue

Here it should be noted that the issue of the transfer of Iranian oil to the Black Sea is completely different from transferring of gas and selling the same to the Soviet Union. In the sale and transaction of gas Iran had every control versus the Soviet Union and it had the power to shut off the valves whenever it saw fit--which it actually did. But now the Soviets can call the shots and control the flow of oil and show appropriate reaction toward the Islamic Republic.

It is a long time now that the Soviet Union has been trying to improve its relations with the Islamic Republic, but now we can say that the action of the United States in the Persian Gulf has produced an opportune moment for the policy-makers of the Soviet Union. With the agreement for the transfer of Iranian oil to the Black Sea, in addition to some political and geographical concessions the Soviet Union will also acquire certain economic charters such as the right of transit, probably some free oil and securing the oil needs of Eastern Europe in the easiest way and at most reasonable prices. One of the other significant concessions for the Soviet Union would be a revival of its commercial dealings with Iran--something similar to the period of the late shah. Frequently, the Soviets have pointed out that they're interested to return the economic relations between the two countries to the status before the advent of the Islamic Republic, and this is something which is economically significant for Iran, but at the same time it is politically dangerous. However, as far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it stands to gain both economically and politically.

Through the improvement of its relations with the Islamic Republic and gaining influence in the foreign policy of Iran, the Soviet Union would want to make Tehran to put an end to the war with Iraq. The policy-makers of Moscow are very

serious in their endeavor for trying to bring an end to the war between Iran and Iraq since they know that the continuation of this war will open the way for the United States and other western countries in the Persian Gulf. For this reason Kremlin is one hundred percent supportive of the Security Council resolution regarding the discontinuation of this futile war between the two nations. It is to the benefit of the Soviet Union to see peace prevail in the Middle East and following the same line of thought, in addition to making political efforts for bringing an end to the war between Iran and Iraq, it also makes every effort to be present and effective in the International Peace Conference of the Middle East.

Construction of Trans-Iranian Railway

LE MONDE while quoting a news report from NORTH-SOUTH News Agency which had appeared in the WALL STREET JOURNAL, writes: WALL STREET JOURNAL in its August 6 edition wrote that recently the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union have signed a very important agreement in Tehran. According to this new agreement a pipeline for the transfer of oil and a trans-Iranian railway will be constructed in Iran.

According to the above-stated news agency the installation of the pipeline for the transfer of oil is quite certain, however its precise route has not been determined yet. Quoting the sources from the Islamic Republic, WALL STREET goes on to write: Last month there were some talks about converting the existing gas pipeline to one which would accommodate the transfer of Iranian crude oil to the Black Sea; however with the construction of the new pipeline for oil, the displacement capacity for Iranian oil can reach up to one million tons per day.

Furthermore, the Soviet Union will build a trans-Iranian railroad which would allow them, for the first time, to send their export products to the warm waters of the Persian Gulf region. So far the precise route for this railroad system has not been specifically determined, however there is a strong possibility that it might start from the Soviet Turkmenistan and terminate in Bandar Abbas or another big Iranian port along the coast of the Persian Gulf.

NEW YORK TIMES with regard to the same report wrote: The Soviets will use the new railway system to export arms and other industrial products of their country. According to NEW YORK TIMES, the signing of the recent agreement with the Islamic Republic is considered as an important strategic victory for the Soviet Union since it will resolve the problems which that country is facing with regard to its unusable frozen ports in the north.

12719

IRAN**SOUTH ASIA****IRI LEADING CUSTOMER OF GERMAN GOODS IN MIDDLE EAST**

46400177a London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 87 p 8

[Text] Last year the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the purchase of various kinds of goods and merchandise with an equivalent value of 3.272 billion marks from the Federal Republic of Germany, ranked 25th amongst other countries which purchase West German goods. During last year the major purchasers of West German products were some western European countries and the United States. In 1986, amongst the Middle East nations the Islamic Republic of Iran after Saudi Arabia, was the leading importer of the West German goods. During the period in question Saudi Arabia purchased West German goods with a total value of 3.37 billion marks. Likewise, the value of the products purchased by the Islamic Republic of Iran during last year comprised 62 percent of the total value of the exported goods from the Federal Republic of Germany.

An investigation of the volume of the West German exports to the Islamic Republic during last few years indicate that the IRI has continually decreased the volume of its imports from West Germany between 1984-86. In 1984 the IRI ranked 15th amongst the customers of West German products and paid about 6.5 billion marks for the purchase of such merchandise, while in 1985 this ranking was shifted to 22nd place and during last year this ranking was established at 25th amongst other customers of West German goods. A comparison of the two figures pertaining to the total value of the imported products by the IRI from West Germany during 1984 through 1986 indicates that during a period of three years, the IRI has decreased its imports from West Germany about one-half. Economic experts cite the reason for this decrease in the volume of imports by the IRI from the Federal Republic of Germany as a result of reduction of foreign exchange revenues of the country during 1985 and 1986. During last two years, as a result of an unprecedented reduction in oil prices and the strangle hold on the volume of oil export of Iran, caused by the persistent Iraqi air attacks on Iranian oil installations and tankers carrying Iranian oil, the foreign exchange income of this country dwindled considerably. Thus Iran could not continue to increase its volume of imports from the Federal Republic of Germany during the period in question. With regard to an increase in the foreign exchange revenues from oil sale by the IRI and its improved political relations with Bonn, economic experts predict that there will be an increase in the volume of exports from the Federal Republic of Germany to Iran. Knowledgeable sources believe that the export items of the Federal Republic of Germany to Iran do not include the value of the weapons and ammunitions which are delivered to the IR clandestinely. Because of the apparent boycott of arms sale to the Islamic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany usually issues the documents pertaining to these sales in the name of other nations.

For this reason, from the viewpoint of official statistics the value of such goods will not be reflected in the total exports sale of West German origin to the Islamic Republic. Some time ago SPIEGEL [weekly magazine] of the Federal Republic of Germany in a detailed report disclosed the secret relations of that country with Iran with regard to the sale of weapons and munitions. In the aforementioned report of SPIEGEL it is mentioned that one of the arms manufacturing plants in Shahsavar which belongs to the Federal Republic of Germany named Fritz Verntz [Guzenheim], presently operates in two locations in Iran: one in Semnan and one in Parchin and both are engaged in the production of modern weapons and other war materiel such as anti-tank missiles. The above-stated magazine while depicting a complete picture of the large network of international dealers--headed by some German arms merchants--discloses the arms exports activities of the Federal Republic of Germany to the IRI.

12719

IRAN

SOUTH ASIA

OIL TANKER INSURANCE DOUBLING

46400177b London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 87 p 8

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The crisis of the Persian Gulf and its ensuing chaos during the last few weeks has caused the international insurance companies, with regard to the probable dangers associated with the military engagements in the waters of the region, to increase the oil tankers and commercial vessels insurance which are plying the Gulf waters to an unprecedented degree. In certain instances, as compared to a few months ago, the increase in the insurance premium has reached a one hundred percent level. The DAILY TELEGRAPH of London in its last week's issue wrote: While until the beginning of the current year the insurance premium of commercial vessels valued at 50 million pounds would not go beyond 100,000 pounds, at present this premium has increased to about 187,000 pounds.

While pointing to the dangers resulting from the crisis of the last few years in the Persian Gulf, the aforementioned newspaper also wrote: As a result of attack on oil tankers as of 1984 until now 212 crew-members have lost their lives.

Some time ago LLYODS LIST of London announced that as of the beginning of September of 1986 until the first of August of current year, 118 oil tankers and commercial vessels have come under attack in the waters of the Persian Gulf. This figure in comparison to the similar period in 1985 shows an increase of 67 percent. The majority of the vessels which have come under attack have sustained damages in their engine room. LLOYDS LIST attributes the reason for this particular incidence to the use of missiles equipped with radars by the two warring nations. The above-stated paper adds that no longer darkness can be a factor for carrying on an attack on the commercial vessels by the forces of the Islamic Republic.

During the last 12 months the majority of the attacks on oil tankers by the Islamic Republic have occurred between the hours of 10:00 pm and 3:00 am.

Shipping industry experts believe that the floating mines in the waters of the Persian Gulf have increased the probability of incidents in this region.

12719

IRAN

SOUTH ASIA

TRADE RELATIONS WITH UK EXPANDING

46400173b London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Aug 87 p 8

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The British commercial shipping group MIT intends to expand its shipping activity in Iranian ports. The MIT group has a fully-equipped field office in Iran. This agency, operating under the name International Rahsepar Shipping Company, carries the major part of the commercial goods purchased by the Islamic republic to Iran's ports, whether they be government or private purchases.

This news comes at a time when political relations between Tehran and London are at the lowest point in years. Currently only one employee, the custodian, remains at the British Embassy in Tehran; in London there are apparently no political staff working at the Iranian Embassy except the charge d'affaires, Akhundzadeh Basati. Economic observers believe that contrary to the propaganda war over the reduction of political relations between London and Tehran, England still has extensive trade relations with the Islamic republic—just as it did before the crisis arose. The office of the Kala Company, the office to procure military supplies for the Islamic republic, the National Iranian Oil Company, and other economic and commercial institutions continue to operate, and there is no sign of a reduction in commercial and trade relations between Tehran and London. Banks on both sides are busy conducting financial transactions just as before, and the Islamic republic continues to buy the merchandise it needs from England at the same levels as before. Experts estimate the volume of commercial trade between the two countries at around \$590 to \$620 million per year. Most of this amount is the Islamic republic's purchases from England. On the other hand, England's imports from the Islamic republic have been quite insignificant, limited to purchases of oil, dried fruits, carpets, and some traditional goods and raw materials.

99310/06662

CORRUPTION REPORTEDLY COSTING NATION VAST AMOUNTS

46560110a Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 13 Aug 87 p 2

[Editorial: "Running Commentary on Corruption"]

[Text] Lt Gen Hameed Malik, retired, chairman of the Federal Anticorruption Committee, revealed the other day that due to serious financial irregularities occurring in the Civil Aviation Authority, tens of millions of rupees have been embezzled. The committee had revealed earlier that large sums of money were being misappropriated in various other institutions and corporations. Federal Minister of Communications Aslam Khattak, addressing a seminar the other day, said that corruption was destroying the nation and that every year about 2.5 billion rupees was being lost in corruption and bribery. It was Dr Mahboub-ul Haq who started revealing the cases of bribery and corruption. According to his first statement, which received wide publicity, he said that the bureaucracy misappropriates about 2 billion rupees from the treasury. On various other occasions Dr Mahboub-ul Haq has stated that the bureaucracy misappropriates about 2 billion rupees in the form of various commissions. During recent budget discussions Dr Haq further stated that the treasury loses about 5 billion rupees in taxes. President Gen Mohammed Ziaul Haq, when he was the chief martial law administrator, said that some work that could previously be accomplished for 50 rupees now requires about 500 rupees due to corruption and bribery. For the rulers to limit their statements to mere revelations of bribery and corruption is like a very bad joke and cannot in any way be considered laudable. The corrupt elements are encouraged by such statements and become more bold and daring than ever. They do not attach any importance to these statements and consider them nothing more than amusing utterances. For a nation that is committed to building the country and the culture on an ideological basis and that claims to enforce Islamic principles, the current situation is disgraceful. It appears that we give scant consideration to moral principles and we no longer fear God, that our conscience is dead and we do not consider ourselves accountable to anyone in this world or the next. This is why national treasury and

public funds are being depleted as if they were our own property. What is worse, the future generation is being made completely dependent on foreign loans, but in most cases the foreign aid is being deposited in foreign banks in the form of shares. We have become so greedy and our lust for money has reached such bounds that we are wasting the hard-earned income of the people with both hands, and responsible government departments, instead of starting a process of purification and calling those responsible to account for their actions, think that by making running commentaries on bribery and corruption they have fulfilled their duties. In the past, during the autocratic and nonrepresentative government of martial law, one could endure the negligence and shortcomings of the responsible elements. But one cannot understand why the present elected civil government continues to overlook acts of corruption and bribery, serious incidents of fraud and embezzlement of our national treasury and misappropriation of public funds. Despite Federal Minister of Justice Waseem Sajjad's statement to correspondents during an interview today that anticorruption laws are being made more effective and that in this connection a bill was being introduced in the September session of the National Assembly for discussion and approval, we believe that there has been no dearth of laws right from the beginning. But in the past it was not considered necessary to have recourse to these laws, and they were conveniently forgotten. Even if effective laws are enacted in the future and special courts are set up under these laws, the main issue comes down to intentions. In these circumstances, since most of the people in the baths are naked, then what is the guarantee that people will abide by these laws. The real issue is that the government should give proof of its sincerity of purpose, and at the least institutions found guilty of misappropriation of funds should be called to account for their actions and public funds should be reimbursed. At the same time, an effective public campaign should be initiated to make trust and virtue a part of the national character, because in the absence of virtue and honesty, affairs in every walk of life become topsy-turvy.

9315/12223

PAKISTAN

SOUTH ASIA

SUSPENSION OF U.S. AID VIEWED AS BLOW TO STABILITY

46560110b Karachi AMN in Urdu 11 Aug 87 p 3

[Column "From Juma Khan's Pen"]

[Excerpt] Even if it were to be acknowledged that Pakistan was indeed secretly engaged in making a nuclear bomb and the U.S. government knew nothing about it, what deserves consideration is what effect it would have on Pakistan if U.S. aid were to be cut off or suspended for 105 days.

Everyone knows that provincial governments can only perform their work on the basis of their budgets as long as the federal government provides them with full assistance in accordance with its promise. In the same way, the federal government also cannot do without foreign aid, because our federal budget, like our provincial budgets, is not drawn up on the basis of our domestic resources. The Ministry of Finance long ago abandoned the policy of living within its means. Now the budget is drawn up on the basis of foreign aid. If the difference is not very great, then it manages somehow. But the suspension of aid amounting to hundreds of millions of rupees for 3 and 1/2 months will upset and cause confusion in the development projects. Our economy cannot stand the shock of a suspension or restriction of aid for such a long period, just as a hungry man cannot live without food for 3 and 1/2 months or a thirsty man cannot remain without water for 3 and 1/2 months. The United States itself may suspend the aid for 105 days but make arrangements with either Kuwait or Saudi Arabia to make available to us the same amount of money on condition that it will be paid back when the aid is restored.

Financial experts all agree on the fact that the suspension of foreign aid will have a very serious impact on our economy and that Pakistan will face such a terrible economic crisis that the present rulers will be forced to step down. If these assessments are correct then why have General Zia and Prime Minister Junejo not made alternative arrangements? High-level delegations should have been sent to Arab, nonaligned and socialist countries on emergency missions, and new sources of foreign aid should have been sought. But the government has been inactive. The question that arises is whether despite being snubbed by the United States, Pakistan will continue to follow a tail-wagging policy.

Abandoning the policy of nonalignment, not maintaining balanced relations with the developing countries, and accepting a position of servitude to only one superpower can only lead to such a crisis. The moment we are deprived of the patronage of the master, everything becomes dark.

If Pakistan were really implementing a nuclear program and successfully keeping it secret, then it should have tried to reduce its reliance on the United States and it should have made efforts in earnest to seek new sources of foreign aid in order to maintain its economic development despite incurring U.S. displeasure.

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PAKISTAN

SOUTH ASIA

BENEFIT OF FREQUENT MINISTERIAL CHANGES QUESTIONED

46560110c Karachi AMN in Urdu 12 Aug 87 p 3

[Column "From Jumma Khan's Pen"]

[Excerpt] Frequent changes in ministries on the federal as well as the provincial level have not been beneficial to the people in the past nor are they expected to benefit them in the future. If the old or the new ministers have gained anything from such changes, they would know best. If it is the policy of the Muslim League to appoint all members of the Assembly in turn to the ministries and this is the reason that the ministries are undergoing repeated change, then no one can have any objection. But the prime minister and the Muslim League should know that both the civil government and the Muslim League are being seriously harmed. The daily change in the ministries indicates first of all that the official Muslim League makes mistakes in the selection of ministers every time. Second, it also indicates that each minister does not succeed in running his ministry--in other words, the Muslim League lacks good brains. Because of the frequent cabinet changes, the ministers do not have an opportunity either to understand their work or to retain their ministries, as a result of which they continue to be instruments in the hands of bureaucracy and they are unable to change the situation. Officials are no longer afraid of the ministers; they know that they cannot be removed, whereas the minister can be removed from his post through high-level conspiracies. Thus the political representatives so far have not been able to demonstrate their abilities, and the bureaucracy remains in full control.

It is said that police are put up for auction and the police station that has the largest illegal income gets the highest bid. If this is true and if a police officer offers hundreds of thousands of rupees in order to take charge of such a police station, then similarly in order to obtain ministries, people

must be paying the sum of money demanded. Knowledgeable political personalities have made it known that people wishing to become senators have had to spend 2 million rupees. if this is true, then to become a minister people must be spending 4-5 million rupees. It is quite possible that someone may have spent 5 million rupees to become a minister, and later if someone else offered 6 million rupees, then the incumbent was replaced by a new minister. if this is the reason for the frequent changes in the ministries, then it is not surprising.

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